

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

After the break... Bernard Levin on the BBC's hostility to advertising



Kashbah capers  
Michael Watkins profiles Tunisia

Slice of life  
Philip Norman bakes a cake in New York

Going for goal  
Line-up for the first round of the FA Cup

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition was won yesterday by Mr David Crothers who lives in Walsall as there was no winner on Wednesday he receives £4,000. Portfolio list, page 26. How to play, Information Service, back page.

## Bill aims to stop glue sniffing

A Bill aimed at ending glue sniffing is to be introduced in the Commons by Mr Neville Trotter, the Conservative MP who came top of the ballot for private members' Bills. He will seek Home Office advice on drafting his Bill, which will almost certainly have government support.

Ballot result, page 5

## Withdrawal call

The United Nations General Assembly called for the fifth year in succession for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, where Soviet troops invaded in December, 1979.

## Damages paid

Selfridges, the London department store, paid £1,500 damages to Mrs Maureen Steinberg, a racehorse owner, and apologized for wrongly accusing her of shoplifting.

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## OAU appeal

The Organization of African Unity summit ended with a call for massive international aid for Africa and pledged to hold a meeting next year to consider what Africa can do for itself.

Emergency spreads, page 6

## Parole policy

The House of Lords declared that the Home Secretary's new, tougher parole policy for certain murderers and other criminals was legal.

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# Synod votes for legislation on ordaining women

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England took a large step yesterday towards ordaining women as priests when the General Synod carried by fair majority a resolution calling for legislation to achieve this.

Since 1975 the church has failed to move beyond a position in favour of the principle, but unwilling to implement it. A similar motion calling for legislation was defeated in 1978.

The size of the majority was something of a surprise to all concerned, particularly as the debate had seemed to indicate an even balance.

The movement for the Ordination of Women said it was "delighted", but opponents took comfort from the lack of a two-thirds majority, which did not affect the outcome but which legislation will need.

The first woman is unlikely to be ordained until the 1990s, Mr Derek Pattinson, secretary general of the Synod, said. The next step is the election of a new Synod next year, when that issue, as the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood said in the course of the debate, would dominate the hustings.

Draft legislation could be ready for consideration by the 44 diocesan synods in 1986.

The final decision, requiring a two-thirds majority, could come in 1988.

That timetable assumes that

yesterday's decision is not overturned by the next synod, which could happen. It also takes no account of the Archbishop of York's stated intention to slow down the process to increase the prospect of general acceptability, within the church, and with those churches such as the Roman Catholic church and Orthodox church, with which the Anglican Communion is engaging in unity discussions.

Anglo Catholics in the Synod, heavily opposed to the resolution, were not reassured by the information that the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission has the issue on its official agenda. Their opposition stems partly from concern over the effect on relations with Roman Catholic Church.

Probably the most significant remark of the five-hour debate was made by the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, summing up. He observed the none of the opposition had been based this time upon fundamental theological grounds.

It was admitted by both sides that the really difficult questions were about how fast to proceed; how to avoid damaging and dividing the church, and how not to damage the prospect of church unity. In this respect the debate represented a significant movement of opi-

nion, compared with six years ago.

Mr Oswald Clark, chairman of the House of Laity, led the opposition, saying the Church of England could not act until it had reached a degree of consensus.

The church had still to develop a better understanding of the mutual relationship of men and women, and to find a better use for women in the church's ministry. The church should not pursue a "sexless concept of personality" nor should it imply that redeemed humanity was somehow opposed to masculinity, as some feminist theologians seemed to say.

He quoted Cardinal Basil Hume as warning that the ordination of women was a momentous issue in relations between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

One of the more influential contributions came from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who had never publicly committed himself before to the principle of ordaining women. But because he was concerned about the unity of the church he urged further delay.

He asked what kind of ministry would women be called upon to exercise, saying whereas priests should be symbols of reconciliation women priests would be symbols of division. Report, page 5



Dr Runcie yesterday. He committed himself to ordaining women but urged delay

## Papandreou mediates in Chad deal

From Mario Modiano Athens

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, yesterday promised President Mitterrand of France that he would pull his remaining troops out of Chad in exchange for a French guarantee of Libya's right to defend its borders if a third country intervened in Chad.

The deal was arranged at Elounda, a holiday resort on the Greek island of Crete, where the two leaders met yesterday after mediation by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Socialist Prime Minister of Greece.

The unannounced meeting had been carefully prepared by Mr Papandreou, who had also been instrumental in arranging the Franco-Libyan agreement for the evacuation of their troops from Chad last weekend.

M Mitterrand had agreed to the Greek suggestion of a meeting with Colonel Gaddafi because he believed that the evacuation agreement had been carried out.

But later the French president's certainty appeared to waver as French intelligence reports confirmed US satellite observations that there were still Libyan troops in the north of Chad.

After discussions lasting almost five hours in the heavily guarded Cretan seaside hotel, Mr Papandreou told reporters he was speaking on behalf of President Mitterrand, who had left for Paris immediately after the talks.

"They agreed that not one French or Libyan soldier should remain in Chad... They also agreed that if there is intervention by a third country, whatever country it may be, Libya will not only have the right to defend itself in the region, but also the right, guaranteed by France, to defend its own borders. France will not support any third country's intervention in Chad."

PARIS: French Opposition MPs yesterday accused President Mitterrand of granting Colonel Gaddafi "a kind of certificate of respectability which other great Western nations have refused to give him", by agreeing to meet the Libyan leader, particularly at a time when he appeared to have broken the Chad withdrawal agreement (Diana Geddes writes).

## British Telecom office runs out of share documents

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The Government will announce today the terms on which British Telecom shares are being sold amid mounting evidence that next week's privatization issue is going to be a popular sellout. At least two million people are now expected to put in for shares, well above original expectations.

The surge of interest claimed its first administrative casualty yesterday when the official BT share information office in Bristol started telling callers that it had run out of prospectuses. The office has had 1.3 million requests for application forms, more than three-and-a-half times the number it had originally budgeted for.

Embarrassed officials admitted that they had stopped sending out the prospectuses, and were advising potential investors to go to banks and building societies instead to find copies. The prospectus will also be published in national newspapers, including *The Times*, on Tuesday.

Although the details of the pricing of the shares will not be announced until this morning,

the final elements of the deal were seen up in the City yesterday with a group of leading banks reaching agreement on the underwriting of the issue.

Just over 3,000 million shares - 50.2 per cent of British Telecom's share capital - are being sold in what is by far the largest share offer ever undertaken. The indications last night were that the price investors will be asked to pay is 130p a share. This would value BT as a whole at just under £3.9 billion, and means the Treasury stands to raise over £3.9 billion from the sale, the biggest so far in the Government's continuing privatization programme.

Payment for the shares will be spread over a 17-month period, with an initial down payment (thought to be 30p) followed by two further instalments in June next year and in April 1986. A price of 130p would be towards the top end of original market estimates, but merely reflects the strong demand for the shares which has built up in the City in the last few weeks as the flotation approached.

The Government has made great play of its desire to spread the ownership of British Telecom as widely as possible, but the scale of the public response now looks to have exceeded the best hopes of ministers and officials.

Favourable press comments and the inducements offered by the Government to first-time share buyers - including the offer of free telephone bill vouchers - appear to have been mainly responsible for the rush of interest.

Prospectuses will be published next Tuesday and investors then have until November 28 to put in their applications. Lloyds Bank is taking on 250 extra staff to deal with the information office in Bristol are believed to have earned more than £100,000 in extra revenue for British Telecom. Plans to make the service available free of charge were considered but turned down by the Government.

## Movement in Washington and Moscow

## Prospects rise for arms talks

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan is taking steps to bring about an early resumption of nuclear arms control talks with the Soviet Union, as he pledged during his re-election campaign.

American officials believe Soviet leaders also want to start talking again and hope a new round of negotiations could open as early as next spring. However, both sides are jockeying for position to determine the scope, nature and venue of such talks.

The US has proposed that initially the talks be revived under a broader forum - or "umbrella" - than existed previously. This concept would enable Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, to have a broad exchange on key arms control issues leading to negotiations by experts on specific items.

It would allow for discussions of the critical relationship between offensive and defensive systems and provide

more flexibility for reviving negotiations proper.

The Americans would like the "umbrella" concept to cover strategic and intermediate-range nuclear missiles, space weapons, the banning of chemical warfare, confidence-building measures and reduction of conventional forces in Europe.

Moscow has boycotted the intermediate-range and strategic missile talks in Geneva since the end of last year and the Reagan Administration hopes the "umbrella" formula will lead to their resumption.

The Kremlin, however, is concentrating on getting Washington to negotiate on preventing the militarization of space, fearing that American testing of anti-satellite weapons would give the US a big lead.

The Reagan Administration is willing to go into these talks without preconditions. But it wants to bring up nuclear missiles and is refusing to accept the Soviet precondition of a moratorium on anti-satellite tests. The US carried out such a test this week.

President Reagan signalled his desire for an early resumption of negotiations in a letter to Moscow in reply to the congratulatory message from President Chernenko on his re-election.

Mr Reagan said that despite Soviet-American differences in "beliefs and perspectives on international problems, I am confident we can make progress on strengthening peace and resolving our differences through discussions and negotiations."

Mr Gromyko expressed interest in the "umbrella" idea during White House talks at the end of September. Since then there have been further discussions at ambassadorial level in Washington and Moscow.

However, before any talks can get under way the Reagan Administration must resolve its own internal divisions.

## Du Cann is deposed as 1922 chief

By Richard Evans

Mr Edward du Cann was last night ousted from the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee of Conservative backbenchers, a post he had held for 12 years.

He was finally defeated by 147 to 94 votes in a straight fight with Mr Cranley Onslow, after three ballots involving five MPs.

Mr du Cann's defeat, had not been expected by any of his challengers, and he appeared visibly shaken and surprised when he emerged after the vote. He said: "I was the first to congratulate Mr Onslow as you would expect. I said how much I appreciated the kindness and courtesy of the Committee over the many long years."

Mr Onslow, aged 58, the MP for Woking, was a minister at the Foreign Office until he resigned after the dismissal of Mr Francis Pym in 1983. His desire for the new job was reflected in a secret memorandum he sent to Conservative colleagues last month implicitly urging them to drop Mr du Cann.

## NUM ignores Labour call for pit ballot

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Leaders of the National Union of Miners decided yesterday to ignore the clear hints from the Labour Party leadership to hold a national ballot. Instead they voted to continue the pit strike indefinitely.

The executive committee of the NUM unanimously agreed on a five-point plan to intensify the 36-week stoppage and invited the churches to give aid to the strikers in a new propaganda offensive against the Government.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the NUM, said: "I am not going to include myself in any slanging match between sections of the trade union and labour movement. What I want to do is unify the movement."

However, the NUM's declaration of its bargaining position yesterday is unlikely to heal the growing rift between left-wing supporters of the miners and moderates on the TUC general council who are arguing that the conduct of the coal dispute should be taken out of the hands of Mr Scargill and his allies.

At yesterday's meeting of the NUM executive it was decided to reaffirm all previous decisions on the conduct of the strike and reiterate that the NUM were available to "negotiate a settlement of this damaging and costly dispute in line with *Plan for Coal*". That form of words is the customary code for the union's insistence on withdrawal of the pit closure programme put forward by the coal board on March 6.

But the board is not willing to resume negotiations on that basis, and a long stalemate in the peace process is now expected despite behind the

scenes efforts by Mr Stanley Orme, Labour's energy spokesman.

The NCB has said that negotiations are "at an end" and that any reopening of talks must start from an acceptance by the union of the board's overall position.

Another 708 miners returned to work yesterday, bringing the number of men returning to work this week to 4,600 and during the past 10 days to nearly 7,000.

The archbishops of Canterbury and York, last night offered to act as mediators in the pits dispute. Dr Robert Runcie and Dr John Habgood said in a joint statement to the Church of England's General Synod: "Should there be a serious request to the bishops from the NUM to act in a mediating or reconciling role, we would respond positively in consultation with other church leaders."

One compromise proposal suggested yesterday during the executive meeting was swiftly dismissed. Mr Sid Vincent, secretary of the Lancashire miners, a moderate who is nonetheless strongly identified with the strike, proposed that the NUM should go back into talks with the coal board on the basis of a five-year moratorium on pit closures.

Mr Vincent's idea drew only a handful of supporters, and was not pressed to a vote.

The idea of a pithead ballot, which Labour leaders wanted to see on the agenda, was mentioned only in passing and was not seriously raised by moderates who want to see such a poll.

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## Kinnock's 'lack of guts' attacked by Thatcher

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister exploited Labour's vulnerability on the coal strike yesterday, accusing Mr Neil Kinnock of humbug on the question of a ballot, and of lacking guts on the issue of picketing violence.

There were strong signs of Westminster last night that Labour, already dragging 9 per cent behind in the latest opinion poll, was beginning to crack under the strain of the dispute.

On the one side, Mr Roy Hattersley's Shadow Cabinet allies showed their delight that the deputy leader had urged greater consultation of the miners by their leadership.

It was said, with authority, that Mr Hattersley wanted some formal consultative exercise so that the miners could have their say in the running - or ending - of the dispute.

More than, that it was said to be of vital political importance that the public should be able to

observe the exercise and know that if the strike continued then it continued because more than 100,000 miners believed in the necessity for prolonged industrial action.

Mr Kinnock remained silent. Having endorsed Mr Hattersley's initiative, the leader's friends said that it was not for him to say anything. The miners were grown men and if they wanted to voice an opinion they could do it through the NUM leaders.

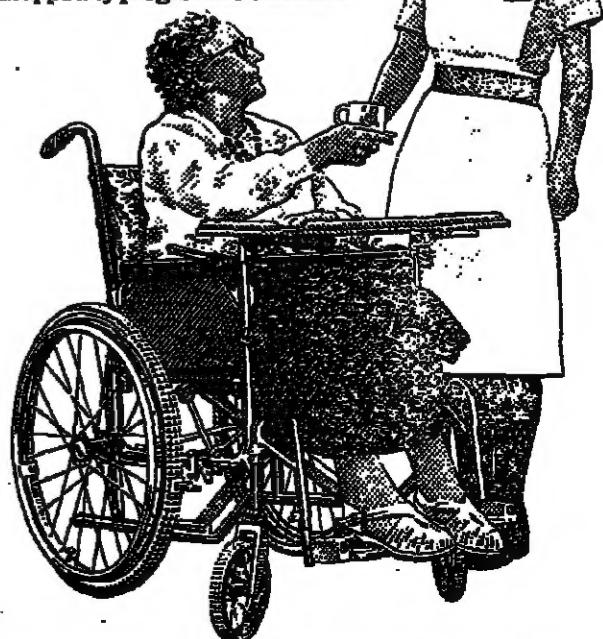
Margaret Thatcher's broadside against the beleaguered Labour leader came after he had accused her of humbug for saying she wanted a quick end to the strike.

The Prime Minister said that she could not teach Mr Kinnock anything about humbug. "He said things about a ballot at the beginning of the strike and then

Continued on back page, col 8

## The British Home at Streatham cares for over 100 incurable people of all ages

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## Artist to be among Prince's godparents

By Alan Hamilton

Prince Henry of Wales, younger child of the Prince and Princess of Wales, is to be christened in St George's Chapel, Windsor, on December 21. The service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

Henry Charles Albert David, who is third in line of succession to the throne, will have six godparents, with Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones representing his immediate family.

The others will be Mrs William Bartholomew, who as Miss Carolyn Pride was a flatmate of the Princess before



Royal godparents: (from left) Prince Andrew; Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones; Mr Bryan Organ; Lady Cecce Vestey; Prince Charles in his bachelor days; and the former Miss Carolyn Pride. The list is bound to cause some surprise. There had been speculation that Princess Anne and Dr Arnold Hammer, the American oil millionaire who is



# Lords approve Brittan's tougher parole restrictions

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary's tough or parole policy for prisoners guilty of certain kinds of murder, other violent crimes, and drug trafficking was held to be legal by the House of Lords yesterday.

In a unanimous judgment which effects several hundred prisoners, the Law Lords ruled that Mr Leon Brittan did not act illegally in introducing the policy last autumn.

But the policy, which creates a 20-year minimum jail term for murderers of police and prison officers and of children, and for terrorists as well as those who kill during armed robbery, is now expected to be challenged before the European Commission of Human Rights.

The Law Lords dismissed an appeal brought by four prisoners affected by the changes, which also mean the withdrawal of parole for all prisoners serving five or more years for violent crime or drug trafficking, except in "exceptional circumstances".

Two of them were already in open prisons in preparation for release when the Home Secretary announced his policy in the Conservative Party conference in October, last year, and were immediately sent back to closed prisons.

He said that their release in the relatively near future "would not have accorded with my view of the gravity of their offences".

Giving judgment yesterday, Lord Scarman said that until the policy was announced each of the two prisoners expected that he might be granted parole in the not-too-distant future.

"The shattering impact of the policy statement upon the four appellants can surprise no one. Their excellent prison records were greatly to their credit and the prior practices in the administration of parole understandably nourished their hopes of release."

The Home Secretary was aware of the impact of the new policy, Lord Scarman added. But he had made clear that in cases of violent crime the paramount consideration would be the safety of the public, not the interests of the individual criminal.

The Home Secretary had not been obliged, as lawyers for the prisoners argued, to consult the

Parole Board before adopting the policy; did not act unlawfully in introducing a policy based on a category of offence; and was not in breach of the law by thwarting prisoners' expectations of release.

Miss Kate Akster, solicitor for the prisoners, said she was greatly disappointed with the ruling. "The whole prison population has been watching this case: these four have been spokesmen for the whole system and many hopes will have been dashed."

But she added that they would take the case before the European Commission of Human Rights. "The moral issue still remains: that this policy was a retrospective penal sanction which is against the European Convention on Human Rights."

The judgment was also criticized by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). "The policy may have been upheld legally, but that does not detract from the fact that such a fundamental change in the way the parole system operates should have been put before Parliament in the form of legislation," Mr Paul Cavandish, research officer, said.

He said the policy was both constitutionally and morally objectionable. "It means that the Home Secretary is imposing his views on those of the judiciary who imposed their sentences on the merits of individual cases. Instead, the Home Secretary is fixing a new sentence for a whole category."

Second, it imposed gratuitous suffering on the individual prisoners, who in one case would now be in prison until the end of the decade, when he had reasonably expected release by next year. "This will do absolutely nothing to reduce violent crime."

The prisoners involved are: Edward Friday, serving seven years for armed robbery imposed in 1981, who had expected release on licence last March, with the first parole date set for November 1984; and another, serving nine years for drug trafficking imposed in 1982, who had expected release on licence last March, with the first parole date set for November 1984.

Other two were serving life sentences. Peter Hodgson was sentenced to life for armed robbery in 1971, and was expected to be granted parole this year or next. Another, serving life for armed robbery, Roy Hopton was sentenced to life in 1971, and was expected to be granted parole this year or next.

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Law Report, page 25

## Big change proposed in teachers' conditions

By Lucy Hodges, Educational Correspondent

Big reforms in teachers' pay and conditions were proposed yesterday that would mean all new teachers would have to serve a probationary period before progressing to a main grade if they were assessed as suitable.

The package, proposed by the teachers' employers, the local education authorities, outlines for the first time a contract for teachers that would include a requirement that they substitute for absent colleagues and do a limited amount of lunchtime supervision.

Teachers' unions jealously guard the right not to have to perform these duties and Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, said yesterday that "on these points the document is immediately and obviously unsatisfactory and unacceptable".

The proposals, which have been sent for approval to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, propose that the main professional grade for qualified teachers should carry a salary scale of £8,500 to £11,800. Most classroom teachers at present earn £5,500. The present scale is from £5,442 to £13,395.

Under the new proposals, teachers would be able to progress up the main grade so long as their headteacher certifies that their work was satisfactory. At the same time promotion could be stopped by the head.

Exceptionally good teachers would be awarded teacher fellowships to last three years. During that period they would be given £1,000 each year, and allowed to take a term's sabbatical leave. Teacher fellows would have to help with in-service training.

Merit pay as such has been dropped as has the notion of "accelerated incremental progression" which envisaged high fliers being placed on a fast track.

The proposals suggest that teacher hours be limited to 1,300 a year, spread over 195 days, and that teachers would not have to spend more than 25 hours a week in the classroom.

All secondary school teachers would be entitled to two free periods a week, and all teachers would have to do up to two days' lunchtime supervision, outside the dining room, for not more than half of the lunch break.

## Dismissal warning for GLC staff

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the Greater London Council, said yesterday that staff would be dismissed if they gave the Government information to aid abolition of the council in 1986.

Mr Livingstone's message, which had been given in a speech to supporters of the council's campaign against abolition, was published in the weekly newspaper *Labour Herald*. Mr Livingstone is one of its three joint editors.

"We have had information come to us identifying a small group of officers within the bureaucracy who are giving out information to the Government. We have laid it down quite firmly that nothing goes out of the building without the agreement of members and that will take some getting," Mr Livingstone wrote.

## Left-wing paper planned

Another proposal for a left-wing newspaper is being considered by the Greater London Enterprise Board, which has been asked to contribute £40,000.

Mr Clive Thornton, former chairman of the Abbey National Building Society and former

chief executive of the Mirror Group, is the central figure behind plans to launch the *News on Sunday*, an alternative to *The Sunday Times* or *The Mail on Sunday*, with a target circulation of at least 300,000. A feasibility study would cost an estimated £56,000.

## Ford men reject 6% offer

Union negotiators at Ford rejected an improved 6 per cent pay offer to the car company's 40,500 hourly-paid workers yesterday.

Ford had increased its offer by 1 per cent and improved its pension scheme by what it said was the equivalent of nearly 1 per cent on wages.

The unions lodged a claim in September for a 14 per cent rise and a big cut in working hours. Ford replied initially with a 4 per cent offer, which went up to 5 per cent at the last meeting, on November 5. The present basic pay for a 39-hour week for day work ranges between £110.77 and £142.98. This is increased, by alternating day and night work, to between £129.18 and £166.81.

A supplement of between 26.96 and 29 is paid when an employee works all the standard weekly hours.

Union leaders at Austin Rover will meet today to consider their next move in the nine-day pay strike, against a background of growing defiance by shop-floor workers.

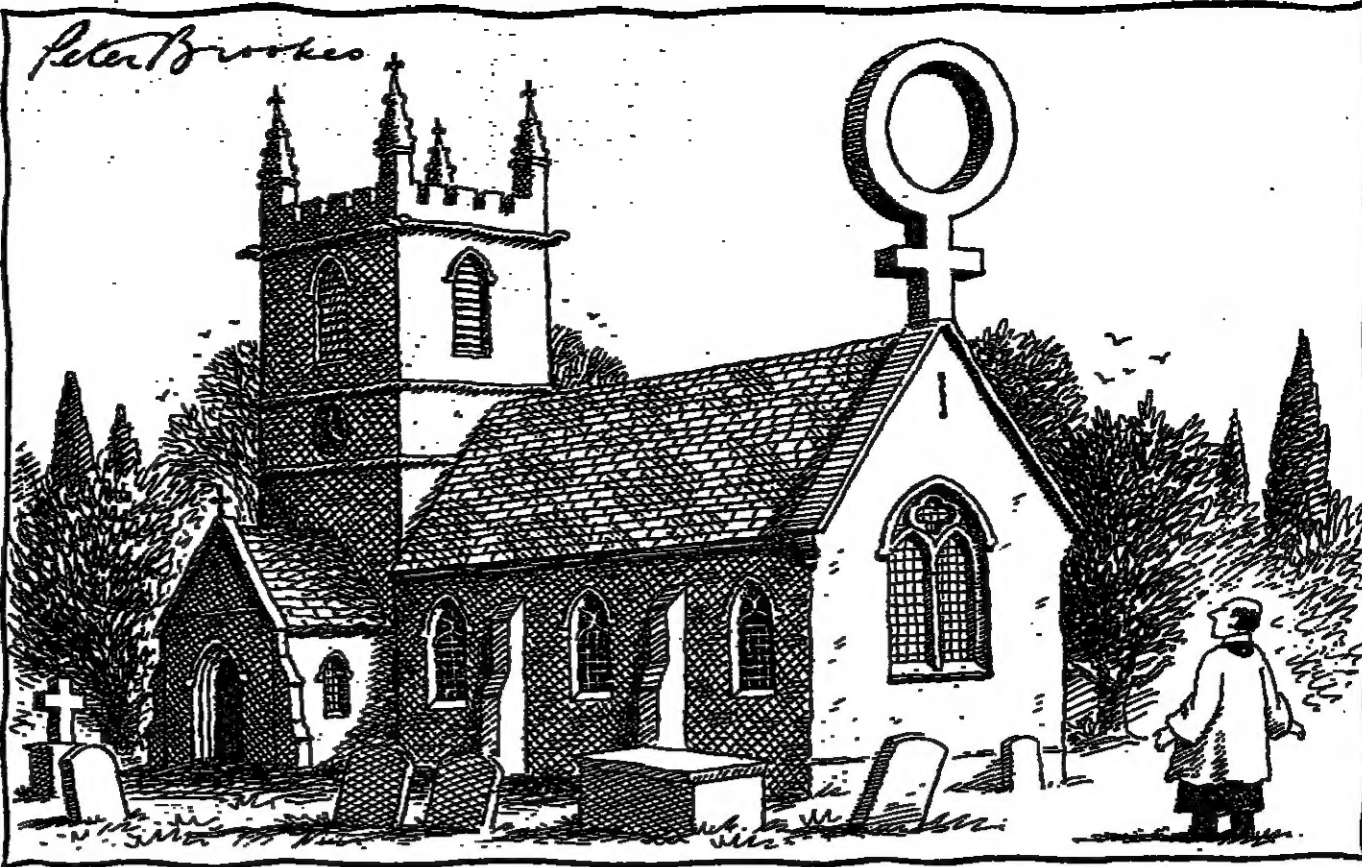
## Modigliani nude brings in £3.5m

By Huon Mallalieu

The American appetite for Impressionist and modern paintings appears to be insatiable. This week Christie's in New York has made more than \$29m in its series of sales, and Sotheby's produced a little more in a single session on Wednesday evening.

Seven works were sold for more than £1m. The most expensive, a record \$4,620,000 (£3.5m) was "La Revenue", a reclining nude by Modigliani, sold by Sotheby's.

Six paintings which did particularly well came from the Boston collection of Mr and Mrs David Bakalar, including "La Femme à la Grande Toque" by Corot, which made \$3,850,000 (£2.9m), estimate \$2m to \$3m. This has been seen as Corot's answer to the "Mona Lisa", and the price was easily a record.



## Coal board and NUM clash over figures

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The momentum of the return to work by striking miners continued yesterday, according to the National Coal Board. However, miners' leaders continued to dispute the number of men breaking the strike.

Mr Michael Eaton, the coal board's spokesman, said: "If it is true, as one executive member said, that the return to work was not even discussed at the NUM executive meeting, I find that astonishing."

The board reported that 708 "new faces" reported for work for the first time on the morning and afternoon shifts yesterday, bringing the total number returning to work this week to more than 4,600 compared with last week's record figures of almost 2,200.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, speaking after the union's executive meeting in Sheffield, said that the coal board's figures did not make sense and that if the numbers that the board claim have returned to work were added together they would come to more than the total number of men employed by the board.

The board said last night that more than 58,000 NUM men were now not on strike out of a total of 176,000. Of the country's 174 pits, some men had reported for work at 132 pits, but only 58 were cutting coal, two more than last week.

Mr Eaton said: "It is ridiculous for union leaders to try to

dismiss this as propaganda. The NCB are not in the business of falsifying figures. It is a fact that there are now more than 58,000 NUM members who are not on strike and I have no doubt at all these figures will go on increasing."

Despite fewer men returning to work since Monday's surge of 1,900 men, coal board officials are confident that the trend has been established with well over 500 new men reporting for duty each day.

Monday is the deadline for returning miners to qualify for extra entitlements before Christmas: in the case of a top paid face worker more than £1,100 including wages, holiday pay and a bonus.

However, Mr Sid Vincent, the moderate secretary of the Lancashire miners, said the figures were crooked. "It is as simple as that. In June this year the board issued a statement that 60,000 miners were working. This week they say 56,000 miners are working, so the board's figures are con figures; once a liar always a liar."

He denied that the number of miners returning this week represented a crack in the solidarity of the union and added that there are still 150,000 NUM members on strike.

Returning miners on November 18 (source: NUM): Yorkshire 20, South Yorkshire 110, Lancashire 100, Derbyshire 100, South Wales 50, North Derbyshire 100, South Wales 50, Coal product plants 15. Total 708 (Note: early afternoon returns.)

## Strike pay query to NUM wives

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday invited Mrs Anne Scargill and Mrs Betty Heathfield to ask their husbands why they had decided to spend million pounds on mob picketing rather than on strike pay.

In a letter to them he also said that Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Mr Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, had organized a strike for which there was no industrial justification and that their actions were damaging mining communities.

Mr Walker was replying to a letter he had received from them as representatives of Women Against Pit Closures just over a month ago.

He said: "If their real concern was to improve working conditions and the environment they would, of course, have rejoiced at the fact that not only was every miner guaranteed a job, but the National Coal Board have made clear their willingness to invest vast sums."

Trade unionists from northern Italy said yesterday they had collected about \$8,000 (£6,350) in two days to support Britain's striking miners.

Four striking miners and a fireman, all from Shirebrook, Derbyshire, were jailed yesterday for offences connected with the pits dispute.

Richard Baker, aged 18, of Alderley, was sentenced to 56 days detention for damaging property and harassing the home of a working miner. Barry Kay, aged 17, of Central Drive, was given 28 days at a detention centre. Dale Wagstaffe, aged 17, a fireman of Yew Tree Drive, was given 28 days detention. Gary Kinsane, aged 21, of Prospect Drive, was sentenced to 65 days imprisonment, all for harassing the home of a working miner.

## Striking pitmen seek ruling against police

Four striking Yorkshire miners asked two judges yesterday in the Court of Appeal in London to rule that police officers who stopped them at a roadblock had acted outside their powers in preventing them joining picket lines outside Nottinghamshire collieries.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for the four men, told Mr Justice Skinner, sitting with Mr Justice Otton, that although the police had the powers to stop the men and warn them that if they went ahead and caused a breach of the peace, they would be arrested, they did not have the power to anticipate trouble and prevent them free passage.

"There was no evidence that any of these four men were intending to commit criminal acts of any kind," Mr Mansfield said.

The four men, Mr Reginald Moss, Mr Albert Bown, Mr Ernest Warner, and Mr Derek Smith, were stopped by police as they left the M1 motorway at Annesley in April this year. Police officers told them they had reason to think that if they were allowed to enter Nottinghamshire they would commit a breach of the peace and asked them to turn around.

When they refused, and attempted to push their way through a police cordon, they were arrested and convicted the next month by magistrates at Mansfield of obstructing a police officer.

But Mr Mansfield said that unless the police had grounds to arrest in relation to a breach of the peace at the time, they were not entitled to take any other measure except to warn the men of the consequences of breaching the peace if they were allowed through to the colliery.

"The power they were seeking to exercise was not one of arrest but one of preventing freedom of movement," said Mr Mansfield.

The police were "no one's lackey," Mr John Milmo, QC, counsel for the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, said. He added that if the police officers who formed the M1 cordon had stood aside and ushered the miners' cars through, knowing that a breach of the peace was imminent, collieries near by, they would have been guilty of dereliction of duty.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, stood down from the panel of judges hearing the case after objections from Mr Mansfield that the case would be prejudged because of Lord Lane's findings in a similar action earlier this year.

Lord Lane said that although he could see no technical reason why he should not hear the case, he was willing to stand down. Judgment was reserved to a date to be fixed.

## NUM court challenge

The Yorkshire NUM is to seek to overturn a High Court ruling that the strike in its area is unlawful. The hearing, due to start on Monday, will be the first occasion on which any part of the union has challenged court orders.

Mr Justice Vinelott in the High Court in London was told yesterday that the area union would seek to discharge orders made by Mr Justice Nicholls in September that the strike was unofficial and that any strike call would be unlawful.

The judge's orders banning the area union from describing the strike as official or ordering members to strike and not cross picket lines will also be challenged, as will orders requiring the union to implement the new NUM disciplinary code.

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The three assessors said in their report that his writing was of a consistently high standard, combining "effective reporting and stimulating discussion".

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Henry Spencer and Sons, of Retford, Nottinghamshire, sold a work by the English post-Impressionist Sir George Clausen, for £62,000. The unnamed owners of the painting, "Apple Blossom", believed the picture to be worth £1,500.

## Drift back to pits met with force

The continuing drift back to work in the coalfields was met by more sporadic violence against police officers, individual miners, and coal board installations yesterday.

In separate incidents, police officers came under attack from petrol bombs, barricades burned at pit gates, and one colliery was subjected to a raid by a mob of a hundred dressed in balaclava helmets, camouflage jackets, and wielding pick axe handles.

The incidence of violence reported yesterday stretched from the "barometer colliery" of north Derbyshire to the North-east, where growing anger has greeted the decision of 647 of the area's 22,000 miners to return.

Police officers in Sunderland are investigating an alleged attack on the home of Mr Kenneth Seed, a COSA official in north Derbyshire, police officers said they were investigating 16 revenge attacks on the homes and cars of working miners within the past 24 hours.

In the Yorkshire coalfield petrol bombs were thrown at police officers at Goldthorpe colliery and at Saville colliery at Methley, near Leeds, where 17 of the 500 workforce turned in, a convoy of cars drove into the pit yard at high speed, and, according to the police, 100 "hooligans" in balaclava helmets and camouflage jackets and wielding pick axe handles, attacked the colliery buildings, smashing at least 23 windows and breaking down doors.

Two policemen were injured, and five miners and a Mexican studying at a Scottish university, arrested, in violent clashes between 300 pickets and 150 police at Castlehill, near Duffnell yesterday.

Windows were smashed at Tilmannstone colliery, in Kent, where 47 men went to work, and at Betteshanger 16 miners and a pit deputy went in.

## Dublin train hijacked by gunmen

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Masked gunmen hijacked an express train near the Northern Ireland border yesterday and stole 15 mail bags in an attempt to get cash and valuables from registered passengers.

The gang's plot is unlikely to have proved profitable because the Post Office said there was little registered mail on board the 8am Belfast to Dublin express.

None of the 55 passengers and 5 crew was harmed during the hijack in South Armagh.

An internal settlement supported by the nationalist minority rather than pressing for a united Ireland is the preferred option for solving the Northern Ireland problem according to almost 60 per cent of those questioned in an opinion poll in the Irish Republic.

## Trainer fined for suffering of racehorse

The racehorse trainer Harry Bell was fined £500 yesterday for allowing a valuable thoroughbred to get into a "deplorable" state. A veterinary surgeon found the four-year-old mare to be thin, undernourished, and in very poor condition, a court at Edinburgh in the Scottish Borders was told.

Bell, aged 56, who owns a training establishment near Hawick, may face a Jockey Club inquiry. He pleaded guilty to permitting unnecessary suffering to be caused by unreasonably failing to provide the animal with proper veterinary care.

## Cruise convoy followed

A cruise missile convoy left Greenham Common in Berkshire early yesterday for Longmore Army camp in Hampshire followed by two caravans of women from the peace camp outside the base.

The convoy of four cruise missile launchers, two control vehicles, several trucks, and police vans, was greeted at Longmore by a group of demonstrators who had been alerted by Cruisewatch, an organization backed by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Belgium 8, Canada 12, France 10, Germany 10, Hong Kong 10, India 10, Japan 10, New Zealand 10, Norway 10, Sweden 10, Switzerland 10, Taiwan 10, Thailand 10, USA \$17, West Germany 10, Yugoslavia 10.

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## CHRISTOPHER FILDES

on money:

"It is at least a tribute to the Chancellor's management of the currency that the unofficial privatisers still find the £20 note worth forging. A replacement arrives this week, but the great opportunity remains to be seized. What we need is the return of the finest banknote design ever seen—the stiff, crackling, handsome, heavy, utterly credit-worthy Bank of England note, remembered in its last surviving variant as the White Fiver. That would be money."

## PATRICK SKENE CATLING

on his recent death:

"There was an unexpected knock at the door on Sunday after lunch. P.J. Barry, a local undertaker in his thirties with the alert features of a ferret, had driven the 12 miles or so from his Bantrey embalming studio to ask the lady of the house, he explained, whether she would like his help with the arrangements for my funeral."

## A.N. WILSON

on autobiography:

"It is almost impossible to write well about one's own emotional history, which is why, I suppose, most novels about love seem so much more plausible than most autobiographies."

## IN THIS WEEK'S SPECTATOR

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GRAHAM GREENE

## Doctors to suggest NHS drugs bill cuts

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Family doctors' leaders are to put their own proposals to health ministers for cutting the National Health Service Drugs bill in an attempt to head off government plans to introduce a limited list of drugs on the NHS.

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the British Medical Association's general medical services committee, said that the Government's plans would be a bureaucratic nightmare, producing a two-tier health service "in which the ability to pay will determine the treatment a patient receives, not their clinical need."

Plans to restrict general practitioners to prescribing only aspirin or paracetamol on the NHS for minor to moderate pain would mean that terminally ill patients would be limited to those drugs or much more powerful narcotics if they could not afford other painkillers excluded from the NHS list.

At the same time, drugs excluded for treating mild to moderate pain, such as ibuprofen, would apparently be allowed for treating arthritis. If doctors endorsed the prescription with that diagnosis it might then be possible to prescribe them. But that was a "bureaucratic and administrative nightmare."

Doctors' leaders are to propose instead that a box should be provided on prescription forms which would allow the chemist to substitute cheaper generic drugs for brand name products if the doctor ticked it. That, Dr Wilson said, could "quite possibly save more money" than the government's proposals.

The Government's proposals, however, received strong, qualified, support from *The Lancet* yesterday.

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## Selfridges pays damages and costs to woman wrongly accused of theft

By Michael Horsnell

The two-year ordeal of Mrs Maureen Steinberg, the racehorse owner and breeder who was wrongfully accused of shoplifting at Selfridges in the West End of London ended in the High Court yesterday when the store paid her £11,500 damages for defamation.

Mrs Steinberg's humiliation occurred after she bought three items from the Oxford Street store and stood talking to a friend on the pavement outside for 15 minutes.

It was then that a store detective accompanied by a police officer questioned her and searched her handbag.

Mr Justice McNeill was told by her counsel, Mr Thomas Shields, that when she produced receipts for the goods she had bought they left after apologizing for the mistake.

He added: "This incident, as one can well imagine, caused Mrs Steinberg immense distress and embarrassment. She is a woman of unblemished character and felt particularly humili-

ated that her honesty should be questioned in such a public manner."

Selfridges now recognized that any suggestion of dishonesty was wholly without foundation and agreed to pay her the damages and all her legal costs, Mr Gavin Millar, the store's counsel, told the court.

After the hearing Mrs Steinberg said: "It was a nightmare in full public view. People

looked from the tops of buses and passers-by stopped to stare. I felt grossly humiliated and terribly embarrassed."

Mrs Steinberg, of Holland Park, west London, who attended the hearing with her husband Mr George Steinberg, said that the incident lasted only about five minutes.

"But it left me terribly ill and upset. I suffer from a heart condition and had to see my doctors because of the worry. The effect was so bad I didn't go into a store for a month. Even now, nearly two years later, I am frightened about going into a store. I did not take them to court for money but to clear my name."

"Many people don't have the resources to do anything about it as it costs several thousands of pounds to bring the action for defamation of character."

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Among those who attended a memorial service to Leonard Rossiter at St Paul's Covent Garden, yesterday were (left to right) Derek Nimmo; Mr Rossiter's widow Gillian Raine, and Don Warrington, a co-star in the television series *Rising Damp*. (Photographs: Chris Harris). Report, page 18.

## Allison's dismissal claim is rejected

Malcolm Allison lost his unfair dismissal claim against second division Middlesbrough Football Club, yesterday. Mr Allison, age 57, who was dismissed in March, "became the author of his own misfortune", the industrial tribunal chairman, Mr Basil Lauriston, said.

Mr Allison caused the rift with the board "and that rift eventually swallowed him", Mr Lauriston said.

"We are quite satisfied that no matter what warnings or consultations had taken place, it would not have changed the result one iota", Mr Lauriston said at the end of the four-day hearing in Middlesbrough. "He was 100 per cent to blame for his dismissal."

Mr Allison had claimed he was unfairly dismissed after refusing to sell players as part of a survival plan.

Mr Lauriston said Mr Allison had misled the club into believing he was trying to sell players to ease crippling financial difficulties. His contract included mention of bonuses to be paid on successful transfer sales, the tribunal was told.

"We have no doubt that he knew perfectly well that the club was relying on him to sell players."

Mr Lauriston said the club had the right and duty to manage. "They were in dire trouble. It is all very well to say that football clubs just do not fold. 'That may be some people's view and the view of history. But if you happen to be the board of directors standing there with bank specialists from London and eminent chartered accountants telling you otherwise, it seems perfectly reasonable that they should indeed be very worried.'"

Mr Allison knew what was going on, but was shutting his ears to it and certainly shutting his heart from it. But he was under a duty to carry out these instructions."

The club said afterwards that it would not apply for costs.

## Fight to cut £60m BBC revenue loss

By Richard Evans

A new campaign against television licence defaulters is being planned by the Home Office in an attempt to ease the BBC's financial problems before next month's negotiations over the new licence fee.

An estimated 1,500,000 out of 20 million households with televisions avoid buying the licence, resulting in the loss of £60m revenue.

The present colour fee of £46, which produces an annual revenue of £750m, could be cut by £5 if licence avoidance was eradicated.

With the BBC widely expected to ask the Home Office for the fee to be increased to £67 for the next three years, the Home Office is concerned that law-abiding viewers will resent a big increase, given the present level of evasion.

Among the ideas being

canvassed is for the fee to be collected with purchase price of a set or to be directly linked to rental charges. Such a scheme could cut out hard-core offenders, particularly in rural areas and city tower blocks, where detection vans are least effective.

But officials are aware that such a plan is unlikely to please television dealers and could require legislation, so the Home Office is consulting the BBC over other ways to deal with offenders.

But the fact such ideas are being seriously discussed by the Home Office is added confirmation that the BBC faces a tough fight in obtaining a big fee increase.

Increasing the present maximum £400 fine for licence avoiders has been ruled out by Home Office officials.

## Beaujolais lorry men found drunk

Two French lorry drivers bringing the first of this year's Beaujolais Nouveau into Britain from France were arrested at Dover Eastern Docks yesterday for drink-driving.

The men, Rene Maureille, aged 41, of Dijon, and Jean Beuret, aged 31, of Angier, were each fined £150 with £20 costs yesterday by Dover magistrates after pleading guilty to driving after consuming two and a half times more than the limit.

They were both banned from driving on British roads for 18 months.

The court was told that Maureille was unsteady on his feet and his eyes were glazed when he was asked to get out of his lorry. He added that Beuret was found slumped over the wheel of his cab at the immigration freight controls.

Third victim of shooting dies

Lesley Stanners, aged 33, a teacher, who was apparently shot by her fiancé on the eve of their planned wedding, has died in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. She was the third person to die in the incident.

Mrs Stanners, a divorcee, was to have married Alan Sanford, aged 38, an engineer, at Diss register office in Norfolk on Wednesday. On Monday night she confronted Sanford with her mother, to tell him that she was calling off the wedding. The police believe Sanford, who belonged to a local gun club, then shot the two women before turning the weapon on himself.

Heart-lung man dies

Mr Sandy McKenzie, aged 22, a heart-lung patient at Harefield Hospital in west London, died on Wednesday. Mr McKenzie, of Pontypriid, mid Glamorgan, had the operation on September 25 and had made good progress for five weeks, the hospital said, but last week complications set in related to his original illness, cystic fibrosis.

A woman aged 21, died in the operating theatre at the National Heart Hospital in London yesterday after receiving a new heart.

Bridge crash court martial

Commander Colin Hamilton, aged 40, captain of the frigate HMS Jupiter, which collided with London Bridge on June 13, is to face a court martial at Portsmouth on December 4, charged with negligence.

The 2,900-ton Jupiter, in which the Prince of Wales served, moved a granite section of one of two central supports about eight inches.

## Four in heroin plot jailed

Four men were jailed yesterday for a £2m heroin smuggling plot involving cleaners at Heathrow airport. The men who were convicted at Reading Crown Court had denied smuggling 17.1 kilograms of heroin on October 21, last year. The convictions came after eight weeks observation by customs officers.

Inderjeet Balu, aged 43, and

his brother, Sarup, aged 40, both cleaning supervisors, of Greenland Crescent, Southall, west London, were jailed for nine and two years respectively.

Inderpal Malik, aged 37, a cleaner, of Weekes Drive, Slough, Berkshire, was jailed for three years and Santokh Johal, aged 37, an electrician, from Amritsar in Punjab, was jailed for seven and a half years.

## Officer did not stab deliberately

A Jamaican Army officer was cleared yesterday of deliberately stabbing a Royal Marine over a racial jibe.

After the verdict at Exeter Crown Court, Second Lieutenant Karl-Gunnar Charles-Harris said that he planned to celebrate with the man he almost killed.

The court was told during the four-day trial that Second Lieutenant Charles-Harris, aged 20, picked up a knife after Second Lieutenant Andrew Quinlan called him a "black twat" in a dispute over cleaning a machine gun.

Second Lieutenant Charles-Harris said that Second Lieutenant Quinlan, aged 20, was his friend and he had not meant to use the knife, but "I lost my cool".

The jury cleared Second Lieutenant Charles-Harris of malicious wounding. The alleged attack happened in May at the Commando training centre, Lymington, Devon, where both men were on a course.

The knife went in almost to the hilt and pierced Second Lieutenant Quinlan's heart. He nearly died, but luck and prompt medical attention saved him.

Mr Christopher Wilson Smith, for the prosecution, said that Second Lieutenant Charles-Harris, one of two Jamaicans in the group of 18 undergoing training at Lymington, "lost his temper in an uncontrollable way".

He insisted that he had no intention of causing injury

## Centre to give advice to debtors

The National Consumer Council claimed yesterday that the number of people in debt is increasing at a frightening rate.

In an attempt to tackle the increasing problem, the first National Money Advice Association was announced in Birmingham today by Mr John Ward, chairman of the National Consumer Council.

Mr Ward said: "Once people start falling into arrears, it is very difficult to stop the slide downwards. The effect on people, and especially their families, can be devastating. To make matters worse, there are not enough money advice specialists to cope with the increasing problem."

The association will provide free advice to anyone in need. It also hopes to become a national voice on all money problems affecting consumers.

He said that there has been a threefold increase in mortgage arrears since 1979 and one in every 1,000 mortgages is now more than 12 months behind in payments.

## Terror that haunts inner city women

Half the people who live in inner Liverpool say they are too scared to walk the streets after dark. Women and the elderly live in fear of attacks and some say they even feel unsafe in their homes.

Details of the "curfew" lifestyle emerged from the first findings of a report on crime on Merseyside.

Mr Richard Kinsey, criminology expert at Edinburgh University, who presented the report, said yesterday: "The picture which has emerged is quite clear: the people of Liverpool's inner-city, especially the women, are living under curfew. The poor worry

more than anybody else, but they are more to worry about."

In Toxteth, scene of the 1981 riots, three quarters of the people interviewed thought there were risks for women who went out at night. On council estates outside the city centre, things were not much better, he said. But there, one of the main reasons for people staying home was the fear of burglary.

The report, conducted over the past 12 months, disclosed that the Merseyside burglary rate is three times higher than the national average. The report has been sponsored by Merseyside County Council with the

Merseyside police at a cost of £94,000.

A sample of 3,600 people were interviewed throughout the county, including 1,400 in five small, representative districts. A final report will be published in February, 1985.

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, said: "There is little of what Mr Kinsey says that surprises me. I think he deals a lot in myths and legends. But on the other hand we have to look at it analytically. 'We can't ignore it or dismiss it as 'rubbish'. It supports a lot of the views we have made in the past."

## Inquest told of Alan Lake's depression

Alan Lake, the actor, told his housekeeper a few minutes before he killed himself that he was "in more trouble than you will ever know", an inquest was told yesterday.

Mrs Honor Webb, of Birch Hill, Bracknell, Berkshire, described how Mr Lake, the husband of the actress Diana Dors, had taken a telephone call, after which he sat on the stairs with his head in his hands.

"He didn't say who it was from", Mrs Webb told the inquest at Chertsey, Surrey. "I thought that he was worrying about some people coming to look at the house. He never wanted to sell it, but I said that he would be fine when they got there. Then I said to him that he looked very pale and to put some rouge on his face."

His very last words that he spoke were: 'No, Honor, it is not that. I am in more trouble than you will ever know.' I said to him: 'All your problems are big ones in your mind', and that was it."

The inquest was told by Home Office pathologist, Dr Keith Mant, that Mr Lake had died instantly as the result of a shotgun wound to his left temple.

When questioned by the deputy coroner, Mr Michael Burgess, about the mental state of the actor, who would have celebrated his forty-fourth birthday on November 24, Mrs Webb said he had been very depressed after the illness and death of his wife, Miss Dors.

Mr Burgess recorded a verdict that Mr Lake took his own life while suffering from a depressive illness.

## Virgin's travel offer to flight entertainers

By David Cross

Mr Richard Branson, the head of the cut-price airline, Virgin Atlantic, is to extend its provision of live entertainment on its transatlantic flights.

To date magicians, musicians, clairvoyants, and even a pearly queen have travelled with passengers to keep them amused during the airline's flights between Gatwick and Newark, New Jersey.

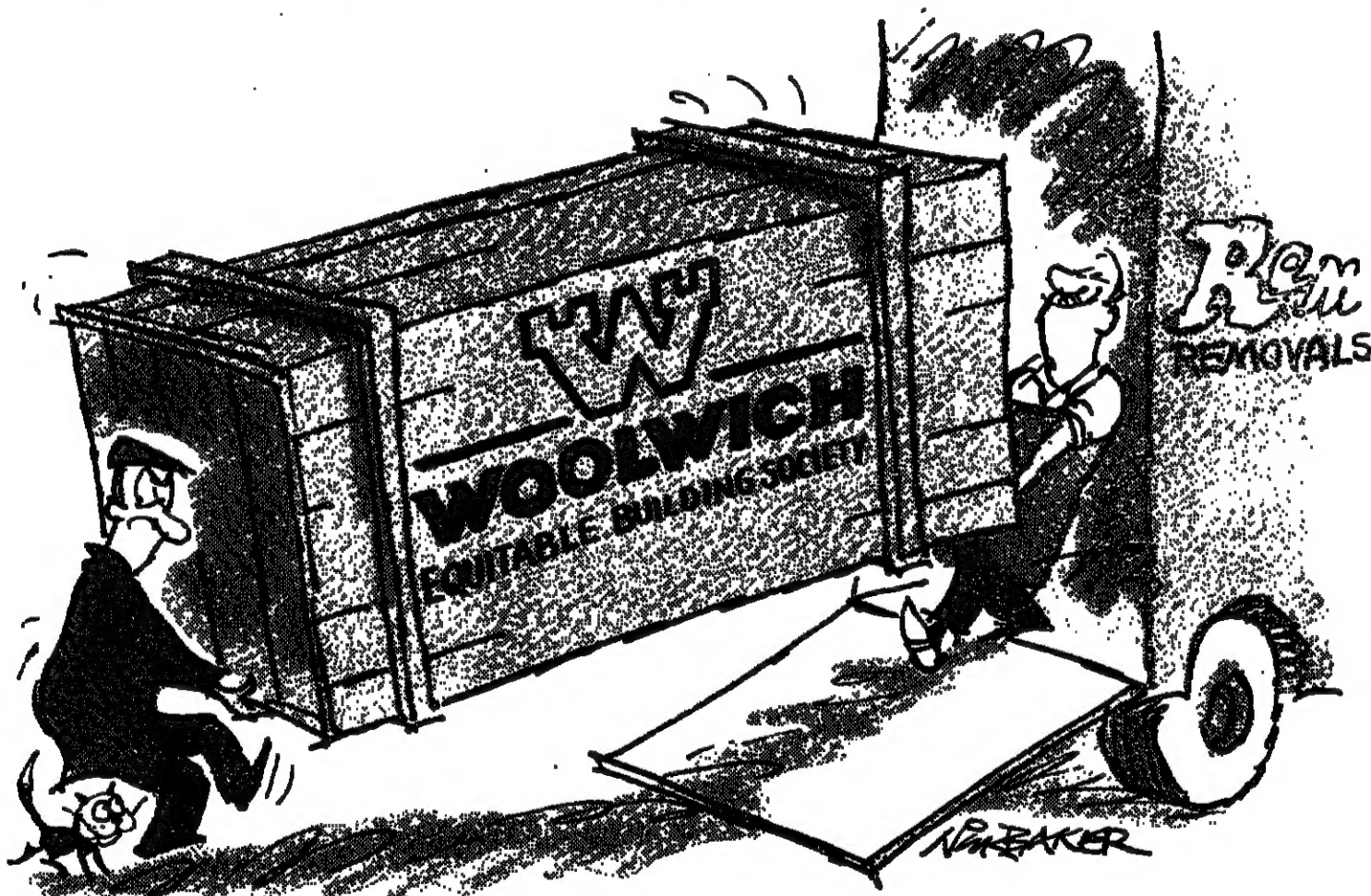
Mr Branson explained yesterday that the airline was interested in contacting any acts that could perform in the limited space available on a Boeing 747. In return for their services, the entertainers would travel free of charge.

Virgin Atlantic also extended its operations yesterday with a new service from London to Maastricht, southern Holland.

Its first 89-seat BAC 111 left Gatwick for Maastricht with passengers paying an introductory one-way fare of £16 for the 70-minute flight. The company claims that it is the lowest fare of any scheduled carrier across the Channel.

The initial £16 fare will increase to £25 after three weeks with an additional £14 surcharge during Christmas.

The Government yesterday rejected a further attempt by British Airways, TWA, and Pan Am to introduce a winter return air fare of £259 return to New York (the Press Association reports). The fares had to be rejected until it could be guaranteed that United Kingdom airlines would not be sued in United States courts for "predatory" price cuts.



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## PARLIAMENT November 15 1984

## NCB cannot go beyond deal with deputies

## COAL DISPUTE

The National Coal Board could move no further in negotiations on the coal dispute, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons. She was agreeing with Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, who had called upon her to make clear that there would be no question of reopening negotiations on the Nacods settlement.

She said that when the miners' strike ended the Government would have to build on moderate, responsible, reasonable and constructive trade unionism.

That comment was attacked by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, as a humbug and Mrs Thatcher retorted she could not give him any lessons in humbug on which he was a self-appointed expert. Mr Kinnock had echoed from a safe distance the condemnation of violence made at a NUM meeting by Mr Norman Willis, General Secretary of the TUC.

Mr Kinnock did not have the guts to go and do it himself, she said in loud Conservative cheers.

In the exchanges Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton N, C) urged her to do all she could to heal the wounds caused by eight months of the picket violence and Scargillism.

Mrs Thatcher: I welcome the condemnation of violence that have occurred in the last few days. I regret that it was not all universal.

I believe that when the strike ends, and I hope it ends very soon, we will have to do as much as we possibly can to build on moderate, responsible, reasonable and constructive trade unionism.

Mr David Wigg (Carnarfon, Pl Cymru) asked what steps the Prime Minister would take to help alleviate the social and economic consequences of the strike.

Mrs Thatcher: The Government has already provided the financial support so that the NCB is able to offer the miners a good wage increase, a guarantee that any miner who wishes to continue in the industry will be able to do so, an investment programme which will enable the industry to improve its productivity and increase its markets, and the creation of a new enterprise company to bring new businesses to mining communities.

Two of the three unions in the coal industry, as well as one third of the members of the NUM have already accepted the NCB's offer.

Since the beginning of last week more than 6,500 miners have returned to work. I hope those remaining on strike will follow their example.

Mr Wigg: The great solidarity shown in Wales with the coal miners strikes out of the fear of those communities that they will be wiped off the face of the map if mines close in those communities. The experience in getting other jobs to the valley communities under this Government had given them no confidence.

Trying to starve the miners back to work will not solve the basic problems which have caused the strike, but instead will add to bitterness.

Mrs Thatcher: Uneconomic pits have had to be closed for a long time. That was right under the duty of the NCB to run and develop the coal industry efficiently. It was always understood that the closure of uneconomic pits was covered in the review procedure.

Some miners are at work in Wales. I hope their numbers will increase because most MPs on this side and many people in the coal industry want to get back to normal and earn good money, and get decisions made which need to be made, and get work going on the new enterprise company and bring in new jobs.

Mr Neil Kinnock: In view of her record, her answer to Mr Marlow will be regarded as complete humbug, inside and outside the House. If she genuinely wants a speedy end to the dispute and subsequent harmony in the coalfields and elsewhere, she will intervene to ensure that the four million tonnes cutback is withdrawn since reality had made it redundant.

Will she also intervene to ensure that the colliery review procedure is fully restored in line with the Plan for Coal?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot give him any lessons in humbug. (Laughter) What he has said indicates that he is a self-appointed expert.

He said things about a ballot at the beginning of the strike and then we heard virtually nothing about it until a few days ago. It took a distinguished trade unionist to condemn violence at a mass

meeting of the NUM and Mr Kinnock echoed it from a safe distance. Mr Kinnock did not have the guts to go and do it himself. (Uproar)

About the colliery review procedure, he knows that the coal board have always honoured that. I do not know why he asks that again and again.

The settlement between the coal board and Nacods, the pit deputies union, was excellent, is on the table and I hope it will be picked up by those on strike.

Mr Kinnock: Once again she dodges into incidentals, will she meet with the leadership of the NUM to explain... Conservative MPs: You. The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): Order. This is a question of great importance to the House and the country.

Mr Kinnock: ...to explain just how it is that after eight months in which she has allowed the costs of the dispute to go up to £3,000m she sustains the idea that the hit list should stay and that no other changes be made and she still tells the country that she wants a peaceful end to the dispute?

Mrs Thatcher: I urge Mr Kinnock to look at the Nacods settlement. He will find the answer to what he has asked. He knows that all five pits will go through the colliery review procedure as enhanced in the Nacods settlement.

It is for the NCB and those on strike to come to a settlement as with Nacods. Will Mr Kinnock urge them to go back to work?

Conservative MPs: Answer. Sir Anthony Grant (South-West, Cambridge): Despite the excellent financial arrangements properly being made by the NCB for the miners, will the Prime Minister nevertheless recognize the enormous courage which is required to go back to work in the face of appalling intimidation—something alien to this country.

Will she say a word of praise that the lead in going back to work has taken place in Derbyshire and Bolsover. (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: Nottinghamshire is full back to work for some time and the return in Derbyshire and Bolsover has been excellent. I join him in admiring the courage and bravery of those who have gone through violent picket lines.



Grant: Courage required to go back to work

Many would like to return in spite of the strike being maintained by intimidation.

Mr David Owen, leader of the SDP: The sight of the Leader of the Labour Party and other Labour leaders as they seek to distance themselves from Arthur Scargill is reminiscent of rats leaving a sinking ship (loud laughter with Labour and Conservative MPs pointing at him).

Far from taking any lessons from the Arthur Dodger, will she make it clear that there will be no question of reopening negotiations on the Nacods settlement.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree that the NCB can move no further.

Mr Don Concannon (Mansfield, Lab): My views on violence and intimidation have been on record for a long time. (Cheers)

At the Guildhall earlier this week, the Prime Minister seemed to imply that those miners going to work all through the strike and going back with her and her policy and with Mr Magregor. Let me assure her that they do not.

The argument in Nottinghamshire is strongly one not in favour of implying recognition of her policies of those of the NCB.

Mrs Thatcher: I made no such assertion as Mr Concannon implies. The miners who have gone back do so because they are loyal people, standing up for democracy and loyalty to the industry, making certain that those who give them their custom get security of supply. They are doing what most people want to do: earning an honest living to keep their families.

International tax

Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in a Commons written reply, said he had authorised the Inland Revenue to publish that day a consultative document on the tax treatment of dual resident companies.

## Callaghan plea for more funds

## OVERSEAS AID

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, explained in the Commons that she could not reopen this year's public expenditure review of the overseas aid budget.

Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab) appealed to her to reconsider the budget.

I believe Mrs Thatcher would be meeting the wishes of MPs on both sides of the House he said if she asked the Cabinet to reconsider the total Foreign Office vote for overseas aid, the news services and the British Council, all of which are so important to our influence overseas, and to make another reappraisal and come back to the House.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Callaghan will be the first to be aware that when one has considered and finalized the PESC, it is unlikely that any of it can be reopened. It really cannot be reopened.

There are only two departments which have precisely the same figures for the coming year as they were to have from the last White Paper. One is foreign and the other defence.

If Mr Callaghan will contain his impatience there may be a debate on this issue next week.

Later it was announced that there would be a debate on Thursday on overseas aid on a Liberal Party motion.

## Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Films Bill, second reading; Tuesday: New Towns and Urban Development Corporation Bill, second reading; Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, remaining stages; Wednesday: Civil Aviation Bill, second reading.

Thursday: Debate on Liberal Party motion on overseas aid; Friday: Debate on Warnock committee report on human fertilization and embryology.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Tuesday: Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill and Family Law (Scotland) Bill, second readings; Debate on Nicaragua; Wednesday: Debate on work of research councils.

## Lawson: Next Budget will be framed to cut unemployment

## THE ECONOMY

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, assured the Commons that he will frame his next Budget very firmly with a view to the best prospect for a continuation of lower inflation and rising employment.

He also indicated that the new regional development grant policy which will be announced later this month would be more job related than under the existing system.

The effect of investment in the infrastructure on unemployment (he said) would be very slight indeed, even in the short term.

The Chancellor said that despite the miners' strike and events in the United States where interest rates had risen so sharply, the level of interest rates in Britain was no higher than at the time of the last election and was set to go lower. He hoped that before long they would see interest rates come down further.

Government policy of progressively reducing the PSBR as a percentage of gross domestic product would be continued.

Questions on the state of the economy: Mr Lawson said output had been rising at rate of 2.5 per cent since the trough of the recession.

Employment (he continued) has risen by an estimated 250,000 over the year to June and is expected to rise further. But real wages grown less rapidly, employment would not rise faster and unemployment would not now be rising.

Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): Mr Lawson's answer shows a staggering contrast between the state of the economy. While in 1979 our performance on inflation as well as unemployment was the average of the seven major OECD countries, our performance now on inflation is still the average but our performance on unemployment and manufacturing output is the worst of any of our major competitors.

When does Mr Lawson believe manufacturing output will return to its 1979 level? It is 10 per cent behind that level now.

Mr Lawson: Since the general election to the latest available figures, unemployment was a respectable 3.7 per cent in this country compared with 5.2 per cent in the rest of the European Community, employment was up 1 per cent whereas there was no increase at all in the rest of the Community, and GDP was 2.9 per cent up compared with only 1.5 per cent in the rest of the Community.

Mr Nigel Forster (Cardiff South and Penarth, C): If we are to create enough new jobs to counteract the rise in unemployment, it will be necessary to give greater emphasis to the forthcoming budget to funding ways of lowering industry's costs to facilitate that process.

Mr Lawson: I agree that the next Budget, as was the last with the abolition of the National Insurance surcharge and reform of corporation tax, must be framed in such a way as to encourage the creation of new jobs. That is why reductions, particularly direct taxation, are so important too.

Mr Jack Derrand (Easton, Lab): When will Mr Lawson stop giving credence to the myth that public borrowing in this country is more would be an unjustifiable burden.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP), moved an OUP amendment declining to give a second reading to a Bill which offered no satisfactory means of establishing that a person requesting a ballot paper was in fact the elector he claimed to be.

Mr Powell said one was prejudiced in favour of a measure on the understanding that its purpose was to reduce the scope and possibilities of election abuse. So it was with regret that he and his colleagues, having studied the Bill but also the details withheld from it - the documents required to

dangerously high? It is 35 per cent of GDP compared with 4.5 per cent in other industrial countries. Tight fiscal policy is the major cause of our having four million unemployed.

Mr Lawson: On the contrary, first of all we do not have four million unemployed, I am glad to say.

The recovery which we are now seeing - and the facts I know are very unpalatable to the Opposition - began when the present Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, courageously made a major reduction in the borrowing requirement in the 1981 Budget.

Mr John Townend (Bridlington, C): One way to increase employment still further would be to remove restrictions and rigidities in the labour market and let market forces work. It is time we did away with wage controls and the National Dock Labour Board.

Mr Lawson: The question of wages councils is obviously one we shall be looking at very closely indeed.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, asked: What is his estimate of the course of unemployment during the next year?

Mr Lawson: Everything this Government is doing is designed to create the maximum opportunity for new jobs. I have never seen forecasts of unemployment and do not intend to make them now.

Mr John Morris (Aberavon, Lab): How does the Chancellor's statement that it has been a good year precisely affect the over 5,000 unemployed in his constituency and particularly those who have been unemployed for a long time?

Mr Lawson: I share his concern for those who are out of work but the plain fact is that the vast majority of the people in this country who are in work are enjoying record living

standards, their output is at all-time record levels and fixed investment is running at an all-time high.

I do wish Labour MPs would give a balanced picture of the economy. We in the Conservative Party are perfectly ready to acknowledge the acute problems of high unemployment. We make no secret of that. But among Labour MPs there is no readiness whatever to acknowledge that anything conceivably could be going right in the United Kingdom.

Mr Terence Davis, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, if the Chancellor can increase this year's PSBR by £1,500m to fight the miners, why does he refuse to increase next year's PSBR to provide jobs for the unemployed?

Mr Lawson: Most people would reckon that the cost of keeping the power stations going despite the miners' strike is a cost well worth incurring. As for next year's PSBR, standards, their output is at all-time record levels and fixed investment is running at an all-time high.

Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab): Can the Chancellor confirm that notwithstanding the level of investment in manufacturing industry, the Treasury confidently expects employment to fall in the manufacturing sector?

Will the Chancellor also acknowledge that while we have 3,250,000 benefit claimants in this country, there are over four million unemployed, many of whom used to work in manufacturing industry.

Mr Lawson: Manufacturing investment is on a clearly rising trend and the latest figures for manufacturing employment was that it now appeared to have stabilized and employment in manufacturing has been rising steadily since the middle 1960s.

That is why this Government's policy to create conditions in which interest rates can come down further is most important. The recent reduction in mortgage rates is a welcome indication.

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he will have to wait until next year's Budget to discover what that will be. Mr Timothy Stoen (Enfield North, C): Does the Chancellor think it likely that unemployment will fall over the course of this Parliament?

What additional measures is he taking to ensure it does fall?

Mr Lawson: The Government's economic policy is designed to create conditions that will allow new jobs to emerge. It is not governments directly which create jobs, it is business and industry that create jobs. Our job is to create the climate so that business and industry can create new jobs. That is what we have done.

Mr Lawson: Mr Scargill has destroyed jobs in a number of industries both directly and indirectly by causing interest rates to rise higher than they would have done and also been threatening the future of the mining industry. The sooner this strike is over the better.

Mr Hattersley: Mr Lawson refuses to make estimates about unemployment. Will he accept the generally held view that under the present policies there will be no significant change?

Mr Lawson: Of course I will give no such assurance for the lifetime of this Parliament. When Mr Hattersley was a minister he also refrained studiously from making such forecasts.

● All the indications were that there would be a further good year for fixed industrial investment in 1985, Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, said during other exchanges.

Total fixed investment this year was expected to be at an all-time record. In the first half of 1984, manufacturing investment was up 15 per cent on a year earlier.

Mr Peter Thurnham (Bolton North East, C): This should lead to extra and more secure jobs in manufacturing industry.

Mr Lawson: Yes, it is of vital importance that we have profitable investment for future development of the economy.

Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C): There is widespread concern in the construction industry that the level of investment is not affecting them in the same way it is affecting the rest of the economy.

Mr Lawson: I am aware of concerns of the construction industry and that what it wants to see above all is lower interest rates, because that is the most interest rate sensitive industry.

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There's a lovely warm feeling getting into shopping these days. Customers are recognising it. And the shops that recognise that are getting the benefits.

The brand that's leading the market is gas. Two recent developments in gas account for this lead.

First: Since 1983 supplies of gas have become more available. Premises that have been using other fuels have now been able to make a move to gas.

Second: The latest equipment is getting more fuel efficient.

Look what happened in Cleckheaton. Hillard Supermarkets Ltd. replaced their heating equipment with modern gas-fired boilers. They installed improved heating controls. Smiles all round. 30% saving in fuel costs.

The North Eastern Co-op in Newcastle upon Tyne had been using gas. They replaced their old boilers with new gas boilers, for their heating and hot water, with improved heating controls.



SHOPS CAN WARM THEIR CUSTOMERS FOR 50% OFF.

And saved 50% on fuel costs.

From small shops to supermarkets all over the country the news is getting around about the new developments in gas. Business can definitely benefit from it, and save costs at the same time.

How about your store? Contact Commercial Sales at your British Gas region, and we'll analyse both your present and future fuel requirements.

We'll sort out the equipment to suit your premises and requirements. We know you'll know a bargain when you see it.

Gas

GAS IS WONDERFUL

GAS IS WONDERFUL

## Voters will have to carry means of identification

## ULSTER

The scale of the problem of personation at elections in Northern Ireland had changed so dramatically in recent years that it amounted to a threat to the integrity of the electoral system, Mr James Hamel, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when moving the second reading of the Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill which will strengthen safeguards against the practice of voting as another person.

At the general election in June 1983, he said, some observers believed as much as 20 per cent of the Sinn Féin vote was acquired by personation. The precise figure was difficult to assess but it was significant.

The Government had concluded the right course was to require voters to produce one of a number of specified documents. This system could be quickly applied, it would be effective and disrupt the traditional voting system to the least possible extent.

The Bill created an offence of having certain documents on polling day for the purposes of personation and gave police the necessary powers to search vehicles and premises on polling day. The new offence was an extension of up to two years imprisonment or a fine of both.

The Government did not have a closed mind on the documents which might be required. At present it thought the list should include the following: a current British and Northern Ireland driving licence, but not a provisional licence; a medical card issued by the Northern Ireland central services agency; a marriage certificate issued by the registrar general for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the case of a woman married since qualifying.

Introduction of a Bill of this kind represented a departure from the traditional British way of holding an election. He regretted that and regretted the necessity of introducing this Bill, but of the necessity he had no doubt.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said this was a Bill about electoral democracy. There was no hope for the people of Northern Ireland if they lost confidence in constitutional policies.

There was good cause for introducing new measures of the kind proposed in the Bill. There had been a suggestion, however, that a special document, an identity card would have to be produced to obtain a ballot paper. His initial reaction to that was that more people already had to obtain and take care of a wide array of documents and that to add one

more would be an unjustifiable burden.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP), moved an OUP amendment declining to give a second reading to a Bill which offered no satisfactory means of establishing that a person requesting a ballot paper was in fact the elector he claimed to be.

Mr Powell said one was prejudiced in favour of a measure on the understanding that its purpose was to reduce the scope and possibilities of election abuse. So it was with regret that he and his colleagues, having studied the Bill but also the details withheld from it - the documents required to

be produced - had concluded that the measures on which the Bill was based, that it would be beneficial, that it would be onerous to the genuine elector without being effective in checking the abuse at which it was aimed.

The whole matter ought to be looked at again. Indeed it was puzzling that the Bill should have been brought forward with so much pressure. Its whole content and the manner of its presentation was a gross insult to the capacity of the people. There had not been any real consultation on the contents of the measure.

It was frequently stated that there had been an increase in abuse in the Province. But evidence to justify MPs in taking the proposed measures on the grounds that there was a growing process which had to be checked, and checked immediately despite the difficulties, had not been available. Mr Hurd had not produced any.

We are (he said) making the possession of a document which the citizen does not need to hold the condition of exercising his franchise.

It was a Bill which would be oppressive to the genuine elector, perhaps on a massive scale, without being effective.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP) said if the Government dealt with the security situation and proscribed Sinn Féin there would not be any need for this legislation.

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## Improved safety at work sought

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government had failed to recognise there was any problem over health and safety of employees in medium and small factories, offices and shops, despite the fact that many of them had little or no medical cover, Lord Gresson (Lab) said when opening a debate in the House of Lords on a report on occupational health and hygiene services.

The report was against the imposition of statutory obligations on employers despite strong support for this from the TUC and the nursing profession. Instead it recommended encouraging employers to provide services voluntarily through a non-statutory code of practice.

In spite of a detailed exposition of the situation, the Environment and the Health and Safety Commission failed to recognize any problem existed. The report was even borne out by a report of the Inspector of Factories.

As a result the Government argued that occupational health should not be considered part of primary medicine, but that was exactly what it was. The Government was also mistaken in concluding the report recommended the service should become part of the national health service with nothing could be further from the truth.

The Government had said it would be concerned if the volume of occupational health work became too great. It was the Government's duty to ensure the capacity of doctors to provide basic primary care services. But with so many doctors unemployed this would be an expensive means of providing new employment.

Lady Cox (C) said the Royal College of Nursing was concerned with the patchiness of provision of health and safety at work which ranged from the best to the very inadequate to the non-existent.

The college was disappointed at the decision to opt for a voluntary code rather than a statutory one. Lord Taylor (ind) said he calculated there were 160,000 factories in the country employing less than 100 people and in 90 per cent there was no medical cover other than a part time first-aid. Of the 17,000 factories employing between 100 and 500 people, half had no adequate cover.

That meant there were around three million employees without proper medical cover. The problem could be overcome by grouping them together so that doctors could deal with them in their own health sectors.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Friendly Societies Bill and Mineral Workings Bill, second readings.

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## Minister insists industry chief be appointed to run health authority

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The West Midlands regional health authority is set for confrontation with Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, over his insistence that someone from business or industry be appointed manager of the authority.

Mr Clarke has finally rejected the region's recommendation that the job should go to Mr Kenneth Bales, its administrator, after he won the post in open competition with outside candidates.

The authority, which has more Conservative than Labour members, unanimously backed Mr Bales's appointment this month, despite pressure from Mr Clarke, after its selection panel had considered a further ten names, including unsuccessful candidates for chairman of the new management board.

Mr Clarke wrote to Mr James Ackers, chairman of the West Midlands region, saying: "I regret I am unable to approve the appointment of Mr Bales". The next step was for a meeting

"to discuss how the selection process can be reopened".

At a closed meeting on Wednesday, however, the authority unanimously reaffirmed its decision.

Mr Clarke, has powers though, to dismiss the authority and put in commissioners.

Senior authority members said they were stunned and appalled at Mr Clarke's decision, which seems to reflect increasing desperation to have at least one outsider appointed to the top general manager post under the Griffiths reorganization of health service management.

Twelve of the 14 regional managers' jobs have gone to insiders, and the remaining region to appoint, East Anglia, is also under strong ministerial pressure to go outside, despite favouring its administrator, Mr James Stewart.

Mr Ackers, a close political colleague of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr Clarke,

both of whom live in the West Midlands, refused to comment.

But the authority's longest-serving member, Mr John Parkinson, principal of Solihull College of Technology, said: "Mr Bales is a first class choice in whom I and every member of the authority has absolute confidence. My own personal view is that we should stand firm, whatever the Minister wants to do."

Authority members said outside candidates interviewed did not match up to the job, while the names put forward for later consideration had in many cases commanded salaries of £50,000 or more, against the £30,000 most general managers are receiving.

Any outsider forced on the authority would face an impossible job. "He will be caught between the authority who will see him as the minister's man and have no confidence in him and his management colleagues who will know he has been put there against the authority's choice", the member said.

## A shining example in private enterprise

By Alan Hamilton

City stockbrokers have taken a shine to Mr David McCann, whose business has grown by 900 per cent in two years.

The financiers are not yet quoting McCann shares on the Stock Exchange, nor even on the Unlisted Securities Market. He cleans their shoes. Two thousand pairs a week, usually with the feet still in them.

Mr McCann, aged 24, was an unemployed bus conductor when, in November, 1982, he walked into his local job centre in Hackney, East London, to discover an advertisement from an American businessman in London for someone to perform the kind of service to which he had become accustomed in Wall Street. A twice-weekly shoeshine at his desk while he worked.

Word spread. Encouraged by the American, Mr Gary Klesch, chairman of a Regent Street financial house, Mr McCann won sponsorship from a shoe polish manufacturer, who supplied polish and uniforms of red jacket and blue trousers, and he persuaded his father to make some shoe boxes. This week he recruited his ninth shoeshine boy.

Mr McCann in turn advertised for staff at his job centre. His youngest shoeshine boy is 17, and had been unemployed for more than a year. The oldest is his brother Terry, aged 28. The boys charge 75p a shine, and pay Mr McCann a rental for putting the business their way. The boss himself has not yet grown too big for his boots; he still goes out every day with his own box and brushes.

He likes to have a whole office full of clients; one client a building is clearly not cost-effective. Nor does he believe in setting up his pitch on the street or in a Tube station, as some rivals have tried; waiting for customers is time wasting when compared with a book full of firm orders.

"Men put their clothes on first in the morning, then they



Mr McCann (foreground) working with his staff at the offices of Quadrant Securities (Photograph: Dod Miller).

put their shoes on last and look at them. By then they haven't got time to clean them, or they are afraid of getting polish all over their nice suits. Anyway, I can polish shoes much better than they can", said Mr McCann, whose own footwear would not disgrace a Guards' parade.

His assistants on parade to be photographed exhibited varying degrees of gloss, from dazzling mirror to the frankly non-reflecting.

"It's very satisfying running your own business. I hope it gets bigger", said Mr McCann,

who confesses that he still has a long way to go to his first million. "I would never be unemployed for long; I would always wash cars or clean windows. There is no end of opportunity today for these little service jobs."

He hopes the business will continue to grow. There is, he believes, still a vast untapped resource of dirty shoes within the Square Mile.

"This guy is a real entrepreneur. He will go far", said Mr Klesch, looking down at his dazzling toe caps and being able to see up his own nose.

## Whitehouse leads lobby in push for private Bills

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the veteran campaigner, yesterday led the field of lobbyists in the annual Commons race for private members' legislation.

The first 20 MPs' names drawn for Bill sponsorship in the new parliamentary session included only five Labour MPs and the top three places were taken by Conservatives, which provoked the wry observation from one unlikely Labour MP that the Fates too, were Conservative. In fact, more than one third of Labour's eligible 205 MPs had not even submitted their names for the draw, a formidable handicap in any such contest.

Meanwhile, Mrs Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, was busy sending out letters to the top 10 MPs with a suggested Bill to combat paedophilia, described by Mr Justice Owen as a "contemptible and loathsome" practice in a case at the Central Criminal Court this week.

While fellow campaigner Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, folded letters and licked envelopes addressed to potential sponsors, Mrs Whitehouse said: "I can't see any member who values his seat not being prepared to give this Bill his full backing."

The success of private members' Bill sponsorship depends essentially on the nature of the legislation; anything contro-

versial can be blocked by determined opponents, no matter how high the MP's name comes in the draw.

Mr Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Hornchurch, the only high-ranking name present at yesterday's draw, said afterwards that he would probably go for a Freedom of Information Bill, giving greater access to ralepayers and councillors to local authority papers and documents.

He also favoured electoral reform to allow local authorities the opportunity to use proportional representation: the registration of plumbers to outlaw the "cowboys"; and a liberation of Sunday trading, which is the subject of a Home Office report to be published next week.

The top 20 names in the draw were: Mr Neville Trotter, C. Tynemouth; Miss Janet Fookes, C. Plymouth; Mr Squire; Dr David Clark, Lab. South Shields; Mr Enoch Powell, Official Ulster Unionist, Down South; Mr William Powell, C. Corby; Mr Michael Grylls, C. Surrey North West; Mr John Carlisle, C. Luton North; Mr Gerald Bermingham, Lab. St Helens South; Mr David Mabel, C. Bedfordshire South West; Mr Charles Morrison, C. Devizes; Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, C. Newbury; Mr Keith Raffan, C. Delyn; Mr Ernest Roberts, Lab. Hackney North and Stoke Newington; Mr Ivor Stanbrook, C. Orpington; Mr Geoffrey Lawler, C. Bradford North; Mr David Nellis, Lab. Coventry South East; Mr Derek Fatchett, Lab. Leeds Central; Mr Peter Fry, C. Wellingborough; and Mr Timothy Smith, C. Bexconsfield.

## Inquiry on beached documents

By Michael Horsnell

Hundreds of Royal Navy papers washed up on a beach near the Portland naval base have proved to be obsolete declassified material, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday as a security scare subsided.

But the ministry already embarrassed by a missing log from the submarine HMS Conqueror, which sank the Argentine warship General Belgrano, has started an inquiry.

The security papers, from

handbooks on automated tracking and plotting systems, were discovered on Wednesday by an unnamed private security consultant. They were strewn across a mile-long stretch of beach between Burton Hive and Freshwater Bay, Burton Bradstock, near Poole, Dorset.

They were thrown overboard from a Royal Navy ship in the Portland area and washed ashore by freak tide, wind, and currents, the ministry said.

A diving team from the base

gathered up the documents.

A ministry spokesman said: "They do not relate to weapons systems and are obsolete, but the matter is nevertheless disturbing."

"The handbooks from which they were torn were restricted but have since been superseded. They would normally be ditched ashore, but it is permissible to dispose of them at sea. Space is at a premium on board ship, and of course paper is regarded as a fire risk."

## Runcie favours women priests

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave his support yesterday to the appointment of women priests within the Church of England.

But Dr Robert Runcie said that for the sake of church unity any such radical change had to be gradual. The Archbishop, speaking during a debate at the General Synod on the ordination of women, indicated that despite his view he would vote against a motion to ordain women priests.

"I have been convinced that the arguments for the ordination of women now tip the balance favourably," but a decision by the Church of England depends upon more than archiepiscopal theological opinion. Against what all admit to be a radical change must be balanced both ecumenical reticence and the internal unity of the Church of England.

"I therefore urge the synod to adopt doctrine of gradualism as an argument of principle, not expediency."

Dr Runcie said that until the church had more experience of women deacons and women priests from abroad, he did not believe it could move with integrity to legislating for their ordination.

His comments could tip the balance. Members of the Synod, the governing body of the Church of England, are known to be deeply divided, although surveys have shown that most church members favour women priests.

This month 15 bishops wrote to *The Times* giving their support. In a letter published on Wednesday a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, added his support.

If the Synod votes in favour of women priests, that will lead to steps aimed at changing the legislation governing the ordination of priests, which could take several years.

In 1978, the Synod failed to return the majority required for a similar motion.

The public gallery at Church House, Westminster, was packed. Many women serving in some capacity within the church were there.

Evidence of how divided the Anglican Church is came with



Dr Runcie: "Wrong debate at wrong moment".

the announcement that 106 people had asked to speak.

Dr Runcie admitted that he had "consistently driven down the middle of the road" on the issue. "But we cannot help causing grief to those who feel moral scandal at the way women have been excluded from power and authority throughout society in the past."

"I cannot conceal my conviction that we have a duty not to be seen to be acting in abrasive and unfriendly disregard of very large Catholic bodies with whom we share the fundamentals of faith."

He said that his decision not to support an immediate change in legislation was reluctant, but the church had a responsibility to give a good example of the way in which fundamental change could be achieved.

"For this reason we would be unwise at this moment to call for legislation."

The Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowly, who moved the motion, said: "I want to argue that the only way to safeguard the doctrine of God in its fullness is to ordain women as well as men."

He said that Jesus was a Jew. "If Jewishness is not exclusive, because the gospel rapidly spread to other parts of the world, why the maleness when the gospel belongs as much to women who are baptized into Christ as it does to men?"

"You cannot block this aspect simply on the ground that it is divisive. The whole thing is bound to be divisive for a time."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said the difference between himself and the Archbishop of Canterbury was very small.

"I believe it is a pity to start on highly contentious legislation so near to the end of this Synod's life. If we pass this motion today nothing much could happen until the next Synod is elected. This is going to mean in practice that the Synod election will be dominated by the issue."

"Having explained why I think this is the wrong moment, I want to explain why at the end I shall vote for the motion."

"To defeat it at this stage would be a crushing blow to a cause in which I believe. I believe in the ordination of women. I believe that this is inevitable and that the theological arguments in its favour will eventually prevail."

"The problem, as I see it, is how to persuade the Church, the whole Church, to accept it gladly and willingly."

He said if the synod carried the motion he would use his position in the standing committee to persuade it to take things slowly, not as part of a foot-dragging exercise, but to allow new conversations to take place both between the churches and within the Church of England, in the light of the new situation.

He felt the weight of the objection that the Church of England was setting itself up as some funny little independent entity. But it had embarked unilaterally on synodical government a fundamental shift in itself in the church's self-understanding. That had already gravely complicated the Church of England's relationship with the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox churches.

## Catholic bishops support doctors' petition on pill

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Roman Catholic bishops yesterday backed a petition by 2,000 doctors urging the General Medical Council to change its ruling that doctors can consult the parents of a girl under 16 about whether to prescribe contraception only if she gives her permission.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, in a statement, said: "Parents' responsibility must not be undermined. Parents have a duty and a right to bring their children to moral and social maturity."

Professional people engaged in medical, social, educational, and juvenile justice services must respect and promote responsibility and frame their professional guidelines accordingly. "This emphasis on parental responsibility is required, especially in those delicate moral

and emotional situations involving artificial contraception and abortion which, in fact, we hold to be immoral. To encourage such procedures without parental consent is an affront to parental rights and a further undermining of family life which our society can ill afford."

"If a doctor in a specific case decides that it is unwise to involve the parents, the onus is on the doctor to justify his decision. However, the community will expect the GMC to insist that in normal circumstances the doctor will work in cooperation with the parents."

## School outbreak

A hundred children at St John's Church of England School in Worsop, Nottinghamshire, have been affected by suspected salmonella poisoning

## 'Nuclear alert' was ticking geiger counter

Four fire appliances, nuclear health and safety physicists and the police went to Temple Mills railway marshalling yard at Stratford, east London, yesterday after a railwayman reported a ticking noise coming from one of two nuclear waste flasks on a train.

The police cordoned off the area around the train while people living locally were evacuated.

When the white corrugated cover of the carriage was lifted off it was found that a radioactivity monitoring device, otherwise known as a geiger counter, had been left attached to one of the 48-ton flasks.

The Central Electricity Generating Board said someone had left it there after a routine safety check on the flask, which was empty. It had left Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant and was bound for Sizewell nuclear power station.

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## Peacock aims Liberal election manifesto at Australian families

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

Mr. Andrew Peacock, the Leader of the Australian Opposition, made a strong pitch for the votes of the family man and small businessman when he launched the Liberal Party policy for the election on December 1.

He said that Australia had not been built by big governments or big unions or big business. "They played their part but the real Australian success story is the story of men and women who struggled hard against the odds, who got things going and who provided a better life for their children," he said.

"Our country was built by people who are sometimes referred to as 'ordinary Australians' but who are in fact the real heart of our nation."

Mr Peacock said that the Opposition had a vision for Australia "to match the challenge of the world we live in and it starts with the family."

He then committed his party, among other things, to:

- Cut income tax for families with children by allowing income splitting.
- Help the elderly by repealing Labour's asset test on pensions.
- Abolish the extra tax on superannuation lump sums.
- Restore choice in Medicare, the health care system.
- Start to restore defence spending cuts.
- Give tax relief to small business, including a commitment to cut company tax from 46 cents to 41 cents in the dollar over a period of time.

Widen opportunities in education and further training.

Help primary industry to reduce excessive costs.

Mr Peacock said those measures would be introduced in the Opposition's first budget if it were elected. "We will not promise more in our first budget than we believe we can fulfil."

Mr Peacock departed from the traditional Liberal Party policy launch by releasing a 53-page policy paper early yesterday entitled *The Liberal Direction for Australia - Stand up for your family*. That was followed by a lunch-time rally in Melbourne and a half-hour documentary-style television launch in the evening.



The Melbourne rally, held in the open air, was watched by about 1,500 people and started with a drum-roll to announce Mr Peacock who emerged flanked by his wife Margaret and daughter Anne to an enthusiastic welcome.

There was little in Mr Peacock's policy document which had not been canvassed already in earlier releases and campaign speeches and there was no indication of overall cost. However, there were some initiatives particularly in

relation to small business and the young unemployed.

The Liberals said that they would set aside A\$25m (about £17m) in their first budget to reduce the company tax on small business.

For the young unemployed, the Liberals offer a new programme to be known as Workprep to provide remedial training for the most disadvantaged unemployed under the age of 30.

"This will be designed to improve the reading and writing skills of young people, increase their motivation, and provide work experience and competence of a kind which will improve the individual's chance of gaining stable employment," Mr Peacock said.

Mr Peacock also promised to cut the budget deficit and reduce interest rates, make radical changes to Australia's industrial relations system, abolish the Arbitration Commission, scrap the prices and income accord and encourage a return to wage bargaining between unions and business.

To finance income tax cuts, Mr Peacock said the Liberals would initiate a shift toward more indirect taxes, beginning in the first term of office.

The Liberal document is an all-out effort by the opposition to close the gulf between it and the labour government by aiming its policy at the moderate and conservative voter in that shifting middle ground which labour has successfully captured.

## Ethiopia's drought victims wait for help to arrive



Brave smiles: Hungry refugees at the Mekele camp in Tigre province

## Emergency spreads to Somali border

From Carol Berger, Addis Ababa

Lack of rain and the pressure of 300,000 returnees have prompted the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to lobby for international relief in south-eastern Ethiopia.

Harar, the vast semi-desert region bordering Somalia, has still to recover from the 1977-1978 Ogaden war. The Somali invasion of eastern Harar was in support of claims to what it called Greater Somalia. Six years after the Somali defeat at the hands of the combined forces of Cuban and Ethiopian troops, the area remains remote and torn by strife. In most areas south of the main town of Harar, only the towns along the main road are considered secure. Military convoys are used to reach the south and the eastern border areas.

Like the famine-stricken north, a sparse and insecure road network has left the region prone to nationalistic rebels and insurgencies from Somalia. It

also means that government and aid officials speak in terms of "the reachables" - those who live along the main roads or can reach those areas.

In 1983 the commission carried out a programme which registered 90,000 people who had come back to their home areas from Somalia. More than 3,500 families received livestock to assist their reintegration into home areas. The assistance brought a second wave of returnees at a time when food aid to refugees in Somalia was being cut.

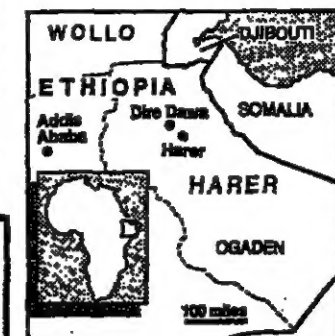
An exhaustive registration of returnees carried out in the past six months has now brought the number of returnees to 300,000. They have returned to join more than 500,000 people severely affected by drought. In the case of Wollo, in northern Ethiopia, there are no food reserves left.

The situation in the Harar region is not so grave, but the authorities are concerned that

the worsening conditions will bring yet another movement of refugees into Somalia.

The commission's mandate includes the assistance of returnees and refugees only. For the coming year the approved budget in Harar is only \$1m (£780,000) to assist 50,000 returnees. As aid officials say, to make any distinction between returnees and local people in need is nearly impossible. If aid does not reach the area, both returnees and those affected by drought will cross the border into Somalia and Djibouti. Stabilization of the area will be set back even further.

Somalia's continued support of secessionist ethnic Somalis in



## African leaders agree to set up disasters fund

Addis Ababa (AFP) - African leaders approved proposals yesterday to set up a special fund to combat natural disasters such as drought, and agreed to hold an economic summit next year.

Member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting here also adopted a declaration which called for a moratorium on debt repayments and satisfactory negotiations with the European Economic Community on a new Lomé Convention.

The economic summit is to be preceded by a meeting of finance and foreign ministers, possibly next February, sources close to the conference said.

The idea of a fund and a

special ministerial meeting was proposed by Algeria, which made an initial contribution of \$10m (£7.9m).

The proposed summit would look again at the OAU's Lagos plan of action on African economic development, drawn up at a special OAU meeting.

Meanwhile, a struggle was developing here for the selection of a new Secretary-General. The favourite was the Nigerian, Mr Peter Onu, a former deputy secretary-general who took over the top job temporarily last year when the conference failed to decide between two candidates from Francophone countries, Mr Paul Okumba of Gabon and Mr Alioune Blondin Beye of Mali.

Contrary to announcements early this year, the substantial Cuban military force has not been withdrawn from Ethiopia. About 4,000 did depart in January, but up to 5,000 Cubans are still stationed in mainly northern Harar.

The Cuban military force played a decisive role in the Ethiopian victory of 1978. Today they carry out training of Ethiopian troops in northern Harar.

aircraft have also delivered three five-ton lorries and 2.7 million blankets. The lorries help to distribute food among remote camps while the blankets go towards making fragile structures that shelter

Yesterday one of the Hercules flew 700 miles south to Nairobi to fetch 10 tons of food, medical supplies and provisions for a team of 30 Save the Children Fund workers operating in the devastated Wollo region.

The RAF crews and their ground-support staff have no chance to see the results of their work, but the international passenger list of television crews and journalists who queue up to fly with them, assure them of how to air it is helping to keep many thousands of people alive.

"It's satisfying work," said a sergeant from the Mobile Air Movements Squadron, known to themselves and others as the Muppets. "This is the sort of job we are trained to do but, we don't often get the opportunity. We know the scale of the problem is colossal and we're very keen to give all the help we can."

## RAF men figure out the benefits

From Thomson Prentice, Addis Ababa

It is impossible to calculate how many tens of thousands of bellies have been filled, bodies warmed and lives saved, so the RAF bookkeepers content themselves with columns of pounds and tonnes.

After 10 days of Operation Basmel, the famine relief airlift based in a corner of Addis Ababa airport, the two elderly Hercules transport planes have delivered 1,309,361 lb of grain to crowded feeding centres around the country. In a dawn-till-dusk operation, the planes shuttle between the capital and the port of Assab, from there to rough landing strips at Aksum, Mekele and Asmara, and back again, three of four sorties a day.

Apart from the grain, which is ground at the centres, the

## Appeal for EEC to cut red tape

There will be an inevitable need for a new effort to fight famine in Ethiopia from next March, Mr Edward Pisaní, the European Commission's responsible for Third World policies, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday.

He said that a third consecutive year of drought was looming which would increase present problems.

He blamed himself for having failed in the past to make the Community understand the extent of the disaster. He pleaded to all members in future to cut through the red tape which significantly slowed and cut back aid programmes.

The Parliament approved an EEC aid budget for next year totalling £256.55m. It included £2.5m specifically designed to help charities to buy surplus grain at as much as 25 per cent below the market price.

Letters, page 17

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## Vietnam crash orphans are awarded \$19m

Washington (AFP) - The US Government and the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation have agreed to pay \$19.7m (£15.39m) to 78 Vietnamese orphans in Europe and Canada who were injured in the crash of a US military aircraft near Saigon in 1975.

The tentative agreement, made public yesterday in the US District Court here, needs the judge's approval before it can become final.

The case stems from the crash of a Lockheed-built, US Air Force-operated, C-5A transport plane carrying 330 people, mostly infant orphans, from South Vietnam to homes in Europe and the US in what was termed Operation Babylift.

A total of 135 people, including 93 of the 247 orphans on board, died in the crash, which occurred 25 days before the fall of Saigon.

A US Air Force investigation showed that the crash occurred because a lock system failed and the aircraft's doors were blown off at 23,000 ft. The pilot crash-landed the plane in a rice paddy.

Under the terms of the settlement, Lockheed and the US Government will pay \$14.5m in cash to the orphans. Another \$2.9m will be placed in a trust fund for the most severely injured.

## China sweetens offer to Taiwan

Madrid - Taiwan can keep its own army and capitalist system if it becomes part of the Chinese Peoples Republic, Mr Wu Xueqian, China's Foreign Minister, said here, (Harry Debelius writes).

His remarks, made at a News conference in connection with the official visit of President Li Xianjun of China, were quoted by newspapers here yesterday.

Mr Xueqian accuses the Taipei Government of trying to hide Peking's proposals for a reunited China from the Taiwanese people.

## All smiles as Koreans turn the table

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

Northerners' seriousness was a decision that future talks, which may alternate between Seoul, Pyongyang and other cities in the South, will be closed sessions, indicating that the North is interested in them not merely for their propaganda value.

The friendly atmosphere also determined another first. Ever since the Panmunjom truce village was set up at the end of the Korean war delegates from North and South have met either side of a long table, decorated at each end with the flags of North and South, with the border between the two countries cutting straight through the centre of the table running East to West.

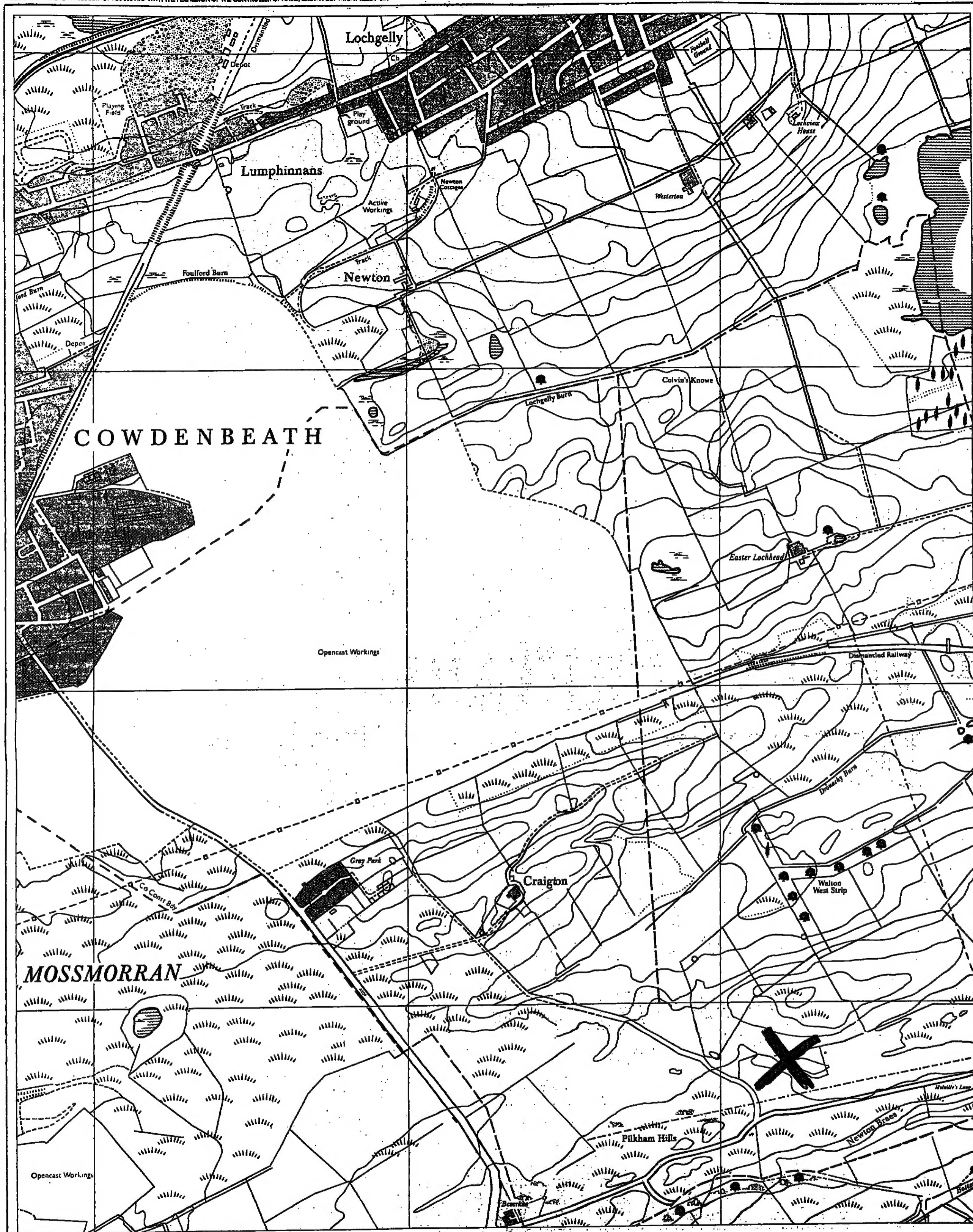
Yesterday, with seven rather than the usual five delegates on either side, the table was swung through 90 degrees with the northern delegates magnetically in the south and vice versa.

The second sign of the

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And if there is time, we'll also be talking about the environmental aspects of the plant. Such as how we built a 138 mile pipeline to feed it that is virtually undetectable.

Or how we designed the plant to fit, where possible, the contours of the countryside. The

enormous storage tanks, for example, have been surrounded by four man-made grass hillocks, and the lines of the pipes and buildings follow those of the hillside.

In fact, from many aspects you could be quite near and not even spot it.

Which is why we thought that our guests might like to hang on to this page. Just in case.

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# Commonwealth class of '84: A royal occasion for the High Commissioners



## Commonwealth piles pressure on Britain to stay in Unesco

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Forty-two Commonwealth countries have made an eleventh hour appeal to Britain to remain in the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) after a crisis meeting in London.

But many feel their combined pressure will not dissuade the Government from joining the United States in deciding to give notice to quit.

Most of the high commissioners or their deputies based in Britain attended yesterday's meeting at New Zealand House, convened by their doyen in London, the High Commissioner for Swaziland.

They agreed to write to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arguing for Britain to seek reform of Unesco from within. Their letter will follow a similar appeal earlier this week by Mr Sonny Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, on behalf of his members.

The high commissioners noted that Britain has taken initiatives to begin the process of reform of Unesco, and these initiatives have had the full support of Commonwealth countries, a statement on the meeting said.

One official present emphasized that there was no animosity towards Britain at the meeting. "It was very constructive," he said.

The West German delegate to Unesco, Herr Alfred Vestring, should have been quoted yesterday as saying he was very unhappy, not happy, with the prospect of British and US withdrawal from the organization.

## Los Angeles police seize 85-year-old Nazi Croat

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles

Marshals and local police with guns drawn burst into the home of Mr Andrija Artukovic and arrested the Croatian exile aged 83, described as being one of the highest-ranking Nazi war criminals still living in the US.

The Justice Department has been trying for more than 30 years to deport Mr Artukovic, a Minister of the Interior and Justice in Nazi occupied Yugoslavia who has been accused by the present Yugoslav Government of complicity in the murder of about 770,000 Serbs and Jews during the Second World War.

Mr Neal Sher, Director of the Justice Department's office of special investigations, described Mr Artukovic as the Heinrich Himmler of the wartime fascist regime in Yugoslavia.

Officials who went to Mr Artukovic's beachside home in the guarded community of Seal Beach, about 30 miles from Los Angeles, took him into custody in an ambulance. He has reported to have suffered a series of strokes and to have a heart condition. He was taken to Los Angeles County Hospital where during a 90-minute proceeding, he was formally charged with murder and ordered to be held without bail pending a hearing.

Commonwealth high commissioners pose in the green drawing room of Marlborough House where the Queen, together with the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Sonny Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, attended a dinner hosted by the high commissioners.

Situated with the Queen and the Duke are (left to right): Mr A. R. Parsons (Australia); Mr Shafiq Arain (Uganda); Dr Claudius Thomas (Eastern Caribbean); Mr Arden Shillington (Dominica); Sir Geoffrey Howe; Mr George Mamba (Swaziland); Mr Ramphal; Mr Tasos Pansyides (Cyprus); Mr Victor Sumner (Sierra Leone); Mr C. M. Mtona (Malawi); Ratu Josua Brown Toganivala (Fiji).

Standing (left to right): Mr A. R. Parsons (Australia); Mr Shafiq Arain (Uganda); Dr Claudius Thomas (Eastern Caribbean); Mr Arden Shillington (Dominica); Sir Geoffrey Howe; Mr George Mamba (Swaziland); Mr Ramphal; Mr Tasos Pansyides (Cyprus); Mr Victor Sumner (Sierra Leone); Mr C. M. Mtona (Malawi); Ratu Josua Brown Toganivala (Fiji).

Lieutenant-General Peter Zaza (Zambia); Dr Herbert Murewa (Zimbabwe); Mr Cedric Joseph (Guyana); Mr Oswald Gibbs (Grenada); Mr Fakrudin Ahmed (Bangladesh); Mr Chandra Monera (Sri Lanka); Dr H. Forde (Barbados); Mr William Young (New Zealand); Mr Ron Sanders (Antigua and Barbuda); Mr S. T. A. Tammepenn (Tanzania); Mr Robert Delpech (Seychelles); Mr H. C. Mr. Radolph Castillo (Belize); Shri N. S. Choudhary (India, minister); (behind) Mr A. Magere (Tanzania, acting HC); Mr O. T. Sefako (Lesotho); Mr Samuel Sarr (The Gambia).

Absent were Pengiran Setia Raja (Penang); Haji Jaya (Brunei); and Dr Ho Guan Lim (Singapore).

## MEPs challenge Council over Euro budget

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament set a collision course with member states yesterday. It overwhelmingly rejected the rules for controlling Community spending which were agreed only this week by the Council of Ministers.

The rules as they stand do not involve the Parliament, and that has infuriated MEPs. Their motion yesterday, passed by 203 to 7, was to serve as a mandate for their leaders when they meet the Council next Wednesday to demand a real say in what is going on.

According to Mr Piet Dankert, the former President of the Parliament, the new rules were a blatant attempt to undermine their powers. Worse than that, they would fail to do what they set out to do - curb farm spending. The best thing about them was that they would be obsolete within a year.

It was clear from the debate that MEPs are now sufficiently enraged by the way they are being treated by the Council that they mean to use this power to reject the Community budget for 1985 at their session next month.

Their anger centres on the way in which the British budget problem has been handled by the Council. MEPs resent the spending rules, which were brought in largely to satisfy British demands. They also dislike the fact that Britain in future is not to be paid rebates, which MEPs can control, but is simply to have its contributions reduced.

Those two points are seen as a formidable challenge to Parliament's less than mighty powers within the Community, and a large majority of members is determined to do everything it can to fight back.

The rejection of the budget is the MEPs' chief weapon. In giving a first reading to the 1985 budget this week, MEPs refused to accept the draft prepared by the Council, which will be enough to pay for the first 10 months of the year. They added an extra £750m to pay for farming, plus another £213m on other policies. Most controversially of all they pretended the new agreement

## 2,000 held in Chilean army swoop

Santiago (Reuter) - Chilean troops swept through a working class suburb of Santiago yesterday, arresting all men aged 15 to 55 in the second such raid since President Pinochet declared a state of siege last week.

Witnesses estimated that about 2,000 men were detained in the swoop on La Victoria, a centre of anti-government protests, and taken to a football stadium in police buses.

Uniformed soldiers armed with automatic rifles surrounded the poor suburb to the south-west of the capital. They were backed by paratroopers, helicopters and armoured vehicles.

Troops and police arrested more than 2,000 people in another Santiago suburb last Saturday. According to an official report, nearly 500 are still being held.

Residents of La Victoria were awakened by the clatter of helicopters as troops took up their positions before the end of the curfew at 5am.

La Victoria has been the scene of violent anti-government protests over the past 18 months. A French priest, Father Andre Jarlan, was shot dead there during one protest last September; his colleague, Father Pierre Dubois, said he was killed by a police bullet.

Thirty-two left-wing political and union activists, whose homes were searched on the first day of the state of siege on November 7, were sent yesterday into internal exile in remote parts of Chile.

The state of siege has brought confusion, fear and anguish, Archbishop Fresno of Santiago, said yesterday in a pastoral letter which he has asked his priests to read at every Mass on Sunday to bypass censorship.

He called for a day of fasting and prayer on November 23, and appealed to General Pinochet to take steps to allow a real national consensus on the future of Chile.

## Aids blamed for deaths of babies

Brisbane (Reuter) - Three babies died here and another is seriously ill after receiving blood suspected of being contaminated by the deadly Aids virus.

The Queensland Health Minister, Mr Brian Austin, said an urgent investigation was under way after officials linked the deaths to transfusions from a male homosexual in Brisbane.

Legislation to punish people who give blood when they know they are suffering from Aids was later being drawn up and health officials were trying to locate more blood donated by the unnamed man.

The babies died in September and October at Mater Hospital in Brisbane after showing signs of Aids but discovery of the common source of the blood they received was made only this week.

## North Koreans help Uganda

Nairobi (Reuter) - More than 200 North Korean troops have arrived in Uganda to help Government forces to rout insurgents from their strongholds, diplomatic sources in Kampala said.

The troops arrived in two planes at Entebbe airport on Tuesday, the sources said. They were taken to camps in the troubled Luwero district 40 miles north of the capital.

## Hitler diaries man released

Hamburg (AP) - The confessed Hitler diaries forger Herr Konrad Kujaw, aged 46, facing trial on fraud charges, was freed yesterday after 18 months in jail. No bail was required.

Prosecutors immediately appealed against the surprise decision and a ruling is expected within a few days. Several earlier applications for his release failed.

## Record haul

Mexico City (Reuter) - Mexican police seized a record 13,000 tonnes of marijuana and freed some 7,000 peasants held as slaves, the Attorney General's office said.

The peasants had been forced to work on ranches where the marijuana was grown, dried and packed for sale in the United States.

## Lawyer defects

Stockholm - Mr Hilar Raig, a 38-year-old lawyer and second secretary of the Soviet youth organization, Komsomol, in the Estonian town of Saku, asked for political asylum in Sweden after defecting during an official visit to Finland and taking the ferry to Stockholm.

## Dali improves

Figueras (Reuter) - The Spanish surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, aged 80, has gained weight and overcome his horror of daylight since moving into a new home. He left hospital four weeks ago after treatment for burns.

## Shuttle pledge

Washington - As astronauts on board the Discovery shuttle prepared for their return to Earth today, President Reagan promised them his support for future space ventures in a call from the White House.

## Miners killed

Johannesburg (AFP) - Three black miners were killed, 12 were injured and two are still missing after an underground rock burst at the Kloof gold mine south-west of here, a company spokesman said.

## Gangbusters

Peking (AP) - Police nabbed a gang of 66 robbers and rapists in the northeastern city of Harbin, confiscating 26,000 yuan (about \$8,500) in cash - 30 times an average annual salary - as well as a homemade pistol, daggers, two motor cycles, watches, cameras and appliances.

## Carrington says Nato is on target

Brussels (Reuter) - Nato's Secretary-General, Lord Carrington, responding to US criticism of European defence spending, announced yesterday that seven West European allies would meet the alliance's goal of a 3 per cent real defence budget increase this year.

He gave the figure at a question-and-answer session with Nato parliamentarians in the North Atlantic Assembly.

Earlier, Senator William Roth, co-sponsor of a Congressional move to threaten US troop cuts in Europe unless the allies boost conventional defence budgets, told reporters he was not satisfied with European efforts, despite recent pledges of improvements.

Lord Carrington told the 184-member assembly: "It so happens that this year seven of the European countries in Nato, and perhaps eight, have achieved the 3 per cent target."

The officials offered no explanation of how so many allies managed to meet the target, while last year only three European Nato countries, Britain, Norway and Luxembourg, achieved 3 per cent growth.

## Church schools in Malta to open on Monday

Valletta: Malta's 78 church schools will reopen on Monday after an interim agreement between the Archbishop Joseph Mercieca, and the Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff (our Correspondent writes).

As a sign of goodwill and to prepare for talks between the two sides, no fees will be charged until the end of the scholastic year.

The schools did not reopen as usual on October 1 after the Government's refusal to issue a licence for eight of them unless they provided free education.

## Police take assassin from hospital for interrogation

From Michael Hamlyn

Delhi

The surviving assassin of Mrs Indira Gandhi was formally arrested yesterday as he was taken out of the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital where he has been recovering from bullet wounds.

Police Constable Satwant Singh was shot by other members of the Prime Minister's guard and was taken to the hospital close to the administrative centre of New Delhi in the ambulance on stand-by at her residence.

Since then he has been isolated from anyone but his

## Pullout negotiations resume Lebanese proposals astound Israel

From Christopher Walker, Naqoura

Negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon reopened here yesterday with deep disagreement over security for the occupied region and a formal demand by Lebanon for as much as \$10,000m (£7,800m) in war reparations.

The border crossing between Israel and Lebanon has been closed to civilian and commercial traffic as security was stepped up after renewed threats from Islamic extremists.

United Nations officials said that special catering arrangements had been instituted to prevent the chance of delegates being poisoned and the building was surrounded by armoured cars and sharpshooters from three nations.

Brigadier General Muhammad al-Haj, leader of the Lebanese delegation opened proceedings with a bitter condemnation of Israel's policy in Lebanon, accusing it of wrecking the local economy and fermenting hostility between different communities.

He said that in addition to the devastation and destruction of towns and villages caused by the 1982 invasion, more than 1,000 Lebanese had been killed and more than 1,000 had been wounded.

The general rejected Israeli plans for securing its northern border from guerrilla attack. He spoke of the eagerness of the Lebanese people to be freed from the prison in which the Israeli occupation had been strangling them.

The hostile tone of his statement, which was quickly leaked to reporters waiting in the headquarters of the UN peace-keeping force, dismayed the Israeli team. But Israeli sources later expressed the hope that it had been delivered mainly for consumption in the Arab world.

The criticism of the occupation was accompanied by the first presentation of Lebanon's

answer to Israel's plans for securing its northern border after an evacuation of troops. In private Israeli officers expressed undisguised disbelief over the sweeping role envisaged for the ineffectual Lebanese Army, Navy and Air Force.

Although the Lebanese Army has difficulty in policing its own capital, the plan included sending between 8,000 and 10,000 men southwards to take over from the Israelis, including two mechanized infantry brigades.

General al-Haj also dismissed out of hand Israel's scheme to use the South Lebanon Army, the militia led by General Antoine Lahad, to police a buffer zone along the Israeli border. His statement described the 2,500 strong force founded by the late Major Saad Haddad as "an illegal armed organization".

The military judges were also trying high-ranking officers for their part in Argentina's defeat by Britain in the Falklands investigations.

The tribunal said in September that orders issued by military leaders in power from 1976 to 1983 were beyond reproach; it could only find the officers guilty of failing to control their men.

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr Grigory Romanov, one of the most powerful leaders in the Soviet Union, read the riot act to the Finnish Communists a few weeks ago, castigating them for the disunity. Above all, he said, they must not split into two separate parties. Yet the chances have increased since his visit that that is precisely what they will do.

The episode is illuminating for the light it casts on the Soviet attitude towards Communist parties abroad, on the way in which the Soviet Union tries periodically to exercise pressure on Finnish politics, and Finnish feelings.

From time to time there has been a bitter division within the Finnish Communist Party between revisionists and Stalinists, with the moderate majority seizing control. The exclusion of the hardliners from all the seats of power has upset the Kremlin, but so has the weakening of the party as a force in Finnish politics.

It is no longer part of the governing coalition and has been losing ground steadily for some time. Once the largest single party in the country, it now stands no higher than fourth.

The 'pastoral letter' made a more sinister accusation

But the "pastoral letter" that Mr Romanov brought from Moscow made a more sinister accusation: that "certain members of the party leadership... have recently made numerous statements... aimed at undermining the confidence felt by Finnish workers and the people of Finland in Soviet policy."

It went on to give specific warning that if the party were to disintegrate "it would then be easier for right-wing circles to undermine the joint positions of these forces that support President Mauno Koivisto's foreign policy line, a line aimed at cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union."

This linking of the internal troubles of the Finnish Communist Party with relations between Finland and the Soviet Union naturally attracted attention. It meant that Moscow is sending two signals: one clear, the other in code.

The clear message was addressed to the party, particularly the moderate majority. The two wings were under orders to sink their differences forthwith. This has met so far with robust response.

When I was in Helsinki shortly after Mr Romanov's visit I took the opportunity to see Mr Arvo Aalto, the revisionist chairman of the party, a man four-square in appearance and in manner. "We are the Communist Party of a small nation," he said. "We are the Communist Party of Finland, we stand on our soil, we have strong ties to the Finnish people, we are ready to receive letters, but we will make our own decisions."

These words had the ring of a Finnish patriot. I was not surprised to learn that subsequently the majority wing had decided to set up a parallel organization of its own in those areas where the Stalinists are dominant, which is a further step towards separation. It now looks as if the central committee meeting next month may be decisive in determining whether the party holds together.

The coded message directed to all Finnish politicians

But Mr Romanov's letter also contained a coded message directed to all politicians in Finland, irrespective of party. It was to the effect that neither the Communist Party under its present leadership, nor the moderates as a separate party if there is a split, would be regarded by Moscow as acceptable members of a future Finnish government.

This is by no means the first time that Soviet leaders have sought to influence the composition of a Finnish administration. For some years before 1966 the Social Democrats were blackballed on foreign policy grounds. When a multi-party government was formed in 1983 under the leadership of a Social Democrat, Moscow imposed a freeze on nearly all aspects of Finnish-Soviet relations until the Government resigned.

The warning that it would be risky to give office to those blackballed by Moscow was not missed in Helsinki.

Whether a Soviet veto would still be effective today is unlikely to be put to the test soon because the Communists are not winning enough seats to merit inclusion. But it is interesting that it should be a wing of the Communist Party that should now attract this particular mark of disfavour from Moscow.

# Spain looks into Flick payment reports despite González denial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Parliament is to investigate allegations that money from the West German Flick industrial concern helped to finance Spain's Socialist election victory as part of an inquiry into the financing of all political parties.

The decision came after Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Socialist Party, categorically denied that he or his party had received any money from the Flick group or West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) after 1977, when all Spain's parties were legalized.

Socialist and Opposition parliamentary leaders yesterday were settling the details of an all-party investigating committee due to report in the next six months.

"Felipe González has not received a single Deutsch mark or peseta and I shall never have to rectify this statement," the Prime Minister told a hushed session of Parliament broadcast by the state radio and television.

The possible ramifications of the Flick affair have embarrassed the Socialists, who swept to power two years ago promising to clean up public and political life after 40 years of favouritism and hushed up scandals during the Franco era. For millions of ordinary voters

Señor González offered a new ethical style. His party had campaigned with an election slogan: "One hundred years of honesty".

At the Prime Minister's behest, the Director of Public Prosecutions already is investigating the initial allegations, picked up by *La Vanguardia*, the Barcelona conservative daily, from the German press, that Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewsky, treasurer of the SPD, personally handed some of the money his party had earlier received from Flick to Señor González in Madrid.

Señor González presented in Parliament a statement on oath by Herr Wischnewsky that the allegations were unfounded. The Prime Minister was challenged to start legal proceedings in a West German court to clear his name, something he said he would consider after the parliamentary investigation.

In spite of Señor González's denials, the small minority who follow their country's politics closely appear disillusioned at the idea that Spain's new political class may be no better than their contemporaries in other European countries.

The Opposition is content that something of the allegations will stick, and that the Socialist image has been dented.

Flick's last reel, page 15



Mrs Peters: Four-letter words and fury

## Svetlana hits at TV men

Moscow (Reuters) - Josef Stalin's daughter, Mrs Svetlana Peters, abused Western newsmen who approached her on a Moscow street yesterday but hinted she might soon give a press conference to explain her reasons for returning to the Soviet Union.

She aimed four-letter words at a US television team who tried to ask how she was faring in Moscow and she refused to answer any questions.

"You are savages, you are uncivilized people," she

shouted. "I'm living in a society where private publicity is not done. I'm going to obey the rules, leave me alone."

"If there will be a place to talk with you it will be a special place provided, not on the street... you will be invited if it will be decided, and then we will talk," she said.

Mrs Peters and her American-born daughter Olga, 13, have been staying in the Government's Sovetskaya hotel since she returned.

## Employers condemn Pretoria's arrests of union leaders

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

In an unprecedented show of solidarity with black trade unions, South African industrialists and businessmen have publicly condemned the wave of arrests of trade unionists and others opposed to the Government's apartheid policy.

In a joint statement the country's three main business organizations, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, the Federated Chamber of Industries and the Association of South African Chambers of Commerce, said they were deeply concerned by the detentions "at a sensitive time such as the present". Such action, they said, was bound to exacerbate labour unrest.

The statement was prompted by the arrests of 15 people in the past week, including the leaders of the two main black trade union federations, the 150,000-member Council of South African Unions and the 110,000-member Federation of South African Trade Unions.

The two trade union groups were the chief organizers of a two-day work stoppage last week in the Transvaal in support of black political and economic demands. The strike has alarmed the business community, which fears that, in the absence of effective black political rights, trade unions could increasingly become the channel for venting generalized anger at the apartheid system.

According to figures collated by the South African Institute of Race Relations, an independent, liberal research body, and the detainees' Parents' Support Committee, which was formed

several years ago by the families of those held by the security police, 1,038 people have been detained so far this year under the security legislation.

They say the detentions are the "worst wave of repression since 1976, reminiscent of the post-Sharpsville state of emergency". In 1976 there were uprisings in Soweto and elsewhere. In 1960 a state of emergency was declared, and many black organizations were banned, after 69 Africans demonstrating in Sharpsville against apartheid laws were shot dead by the police.

It is estimated that there are about 220 people in security

police detention, mainly students, trade unionists, teachers and anti-apartheid activists of one kind or another. They include most of the leadership of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a multinational alliance of opposition groups.

Most of the detainees are held under either Section 29 or Section 28 of the Internal Security Act. The first permits indefinite detention for interrogation, and the second indefinite "preventive detention" of persons deemed to be an actual or potential threat to law and order. There is no legal appeal against such detention.

## Crocker meeting clue to progress on Namibia

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South Africa and the United States began talks in Pretoria yesterday, which should give a clearer indication whether optimism about prospects for peace in the conflict over South African-occupied Namibia is justified.

The American delegation is led by Mr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, and the South African negotiators by Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, General Magnus Malan, Minister of Defence, and other officials.

On the eve of the talks, expected to end later today, Mr Botha said South Africa's

response to recent peace proposals by Angola, including a phased withdrawal of Cuban troops stationed in that country, would be "conveyed and explained" to the Americans.

The new element is Lunda's willingness to make the withdrawal of the Cubans part of the Namibian independence process.

Pretoria is likely to raise objections to the proposed timing of the withdrawal. Angola says it will start to send the estimated 25,000 Cubans home only when South African forces in Namibia have been reduced to 1,500.

## Step nearer link across Channel

From Diana Geddes, Paris

An important new step has been taken toward the realization of a cross-channel "fixed-link", whether tunnel or bridge, with the announcement yesterday that the French and British Governments have agreed to set up a joint working group to draw up guidelines by which they will assess potential projects.

The agreement was reached by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the British Minister of Transport, and Mr Paul Quilès, French Minister for Housing.

The French are pleased by what they see as the first clear affirmation by the British Government that they wish to proceed with the project, while the British are pleased by an apparent shift in the former French position that some public money must be involved.

The joint communiqué states clearly that the project "should be financed without support from public funds or government financed guarantees, and on the basis of conditions prevailing on the international financial markets."

At the same time, the two ministers agreed that "essential political guarantees would be provided", indicating that private promoters would be compensated for any loss caused by actions by Governments, such as a unilateral withdrawal from the project by one side or the other.



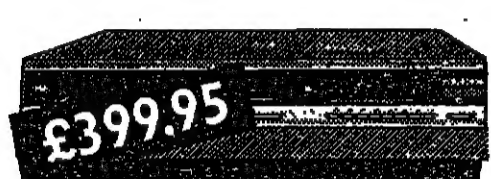
Don Gaetano Badalamenti, the alleged chief of a Mafia heroin ring who has been imprisoned in Spain since April and will be extradited to the US over the next few days. Sources in Palermo, Sicily said Signor Badalamenti, whose Mafia family was badly hit in a clan war, would probably turn supergrass like the godfather Signor Tommaso Buscetta.

## Yugoslav group to fight against political trials

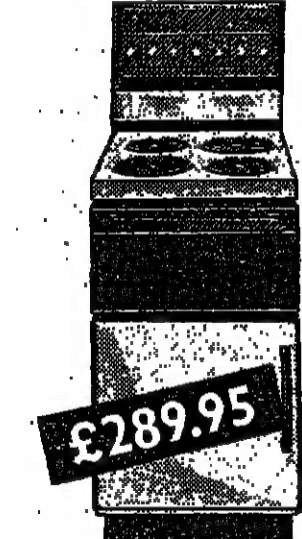
Nineteen distinguished Yugoslav men of letters, art and science have set up a committee to defend freedom of thought and expression. It has pledged to take up all cases of people being tried for their beliefs (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The committee voices concern about ever-more frequent trials of people for their beliefs which, they said, were becoming an ideological and "legitimate method" of the authorities against all who do not hold identical opinions.

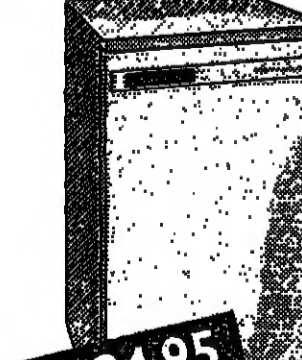
Formation of the committee was clearly in response to the trial of six dissidents on charges of trying to overthrow the Government. Yesterday the hearing was suspended here after one of the defence lawyers was physically ejected from the court on the orders of the judge.



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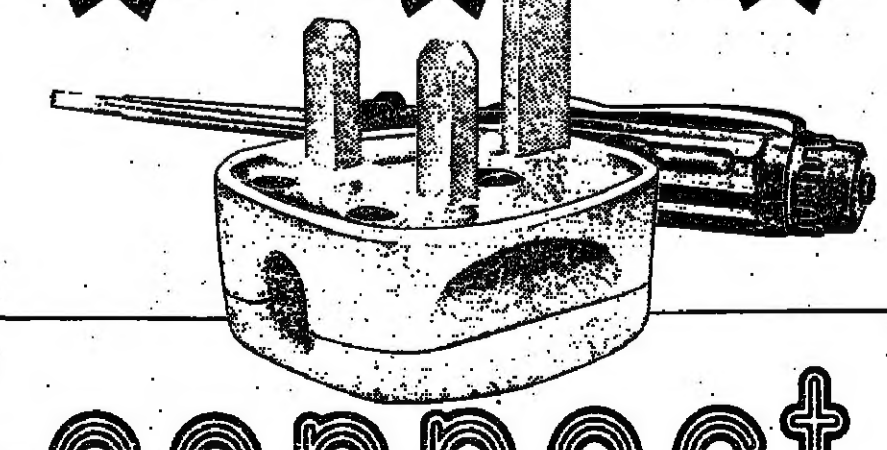
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Sanyo GXT210 Twin Cassette Hi-fi - £219.95. Pounds out the music with the Sanyo GXT210 Hi-fi system. Belt-drive, semi-auto turntable with straight tone arm, twin cassette decks with metal tape compatibility, LW/MW/Stereo VHF tuner, 5 band graphic equaliser and 20 watts RMS total output. All housed in a rosewood cabinet on castors with glass door and lid complete with matching speakers. And at £219.95 the price sounds just as good. (Plus Pioneer, JVC, Amstrad, Sentra.)





## SPECTRUM

Funny man Mike Harding has a new role as president of the Ramblers' Association. Alan Franks heard how he will fight for walkers' rights in the countryside

## Enter the comic crusader

For the Ramblers' Association to have made the northern comic Mike Harding its president, in succession to Lord Melchett, looks like a move from the sublime to the ridiculous; the swapping of a baron for a bawdy.

When the appointment was first mooted there were murmurs of dismay from the association's senior membership, which does have its share of tweeded venerables. There were visions of lavatory

pressure group, is compelled to trade.

Only a still closer look would have brought reassurance; the ramblers now have for their figurehead a committed long-distance walker, and a daleman with a deep knowledge of the politics of the countryside. If he is something of a radical and an anti-authoritarian, there is an honourable tradition of such things in the Englishman's battles for pedestrian access.

The period of Harding's tenure of the presidency, which runs until mid-1987, is likely to see two misconceptions disappear: first, that walkers are, to use his own words, "a bunch of knock-kneed old men and women who don't get big boots and ex-Army rucksacks for a Sunday afternoon stroll"; and second, that he is simply a stage northerner hired to do a David Bellamy job on the fells.

"As a media person - sorry about that phrase, but it's true - I know I can help increase the membership," he says. "I can also help to present the image of rambling in its proper light. I don't think it should matter what sort of person you are in

professional terms, but rather what you think about the issues involved."

His thoughts about the issues are unequivocal: "Forty tons of the Peak District leaves it every ten minutes, thanks to the limestone quarrying. In Ribblesdale there are four quarries spread over an area of six miles. The effect is quite unbelievable."

"Take the quarry at Horton in Ribblesdale. This takes the purest possible limestone and, instead of using it for the chemicals industry, it distributes it for use as ordinary road ballast. It's all down to purely economic priorities, because it's cheaper just to blast the stuff off the face of the hills. All right, I

know that the quarry provides local jobs - something like 80 people plus all the ancillary labour - and I'm the last person to want to take work away from anyone. But look at it this way: if someone said: 'There's all this magnesium dioxide in the stones of Balmoral Castle and we could really use it for rocket nose-cones,' there would be an outcry. And quite rightly. So why do we let a company come in and blow away bits of what is just as much a national monument?"

As a performer, Harding, now 40, has emerged from the same folk music school that produced Jake Thackray, Billy Connolly and Jasper Carrott. As with the last two, the songs

gradually lost their primary in the programme, and the chat linking the numbers grew into the *raison d'être* of the routine. Tempting therefore to assume that he is about to use part of his act for proselytizing purposes.

"No, that's not quite true. I'd far rather make people laugh than cry. OK, when I do my national tour next year, between February and May, I'll put in a plug for the association. And yes, I intend to write a song for an old friend of mine, Tony Hardman, a great rambler, who was killed on Lochnagar."

On the evidence then, the choice of Harding for president is not so much eccentric as inspired, and consistent with

the populist approach of the RA's young secretary, Alan Mattingly. After all, Lord Melchett, Eton and Cambridge notwithstanding, was chairman of the working party on pop festivals in 1973.

Already, Harding says, his approach to conservation has lost him a few friends in the local near his cottage at the foot of Pennine Way. "Ah, but you have to remember they're quarrymen. They've got their jobs to think of, and I understand that. It's a valid point."

There is this conflict between those who live and work in the National Parks, and the nation's claim on its open spaces. Take the Dales again.

Until 20 or 30 years ago, all the quarrying was done on a human scale. Just three or four blokes. And if you look now at those places, they could almost be natural features in the landscape. But now there's been a fantastic raising of the pace... it seems to me that the National Parks committees are powerless in everything except deciding on. I don't know, the shape of new windows in private houses."

Harding's own remit as president does not run to drawing up a ramblers' manifesto. But if it did, one could be certain that it would hinge on an increase in government subsidies for rural conservation, and a coordinated national plan

for the parks. He is well aware that walking now stands in the first division of leisure pursuits, a fact underlined by the rise this autumn of a book by the Cumbrian mountaineer Alfred Wainwright to the top of the best-seller list.

About three and a half months of Harding's year are spent on the road "to pay the rent." The rest of the time is split between writing books, broadcasting, and rambling.

### Come in: The 1980s way

This year he has spent about 40 nights out, all the while amassing, whether he intends to or not, material for his next series of shows. Round his waist as he trudges is a camera, for he is also a keen photographer.

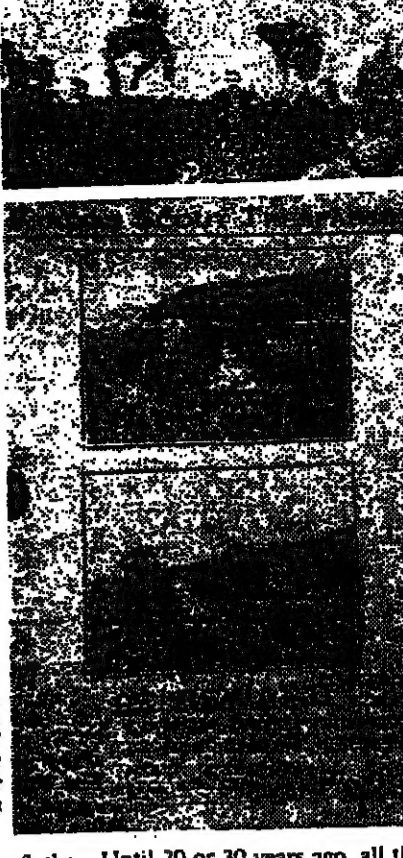
And joker. On Dundee: "The town that invented the coffin." On Birmingham: "Looks as though it was designed by a Lego salesman." On Egremond on the North-east coast: "Where the tide hopes it doesn't have to come in."

It is hard to see him suppressing this brand of humour during the next three years as he addresses himself to the problems of the countryside. What the RA has is a one-off hybrid descended from the music hall clown and the dogged commoners who trespassed on the Kinder Scout grouse moors half a century ago and so gave birth to the Pennine Way.

Mike Harding's comic miscellany, *When The Martians Land in Huddersfield*, was published yesterday by Robson Books (£5.95).



Mike Harding, left, hits the trail. Pictured, top right, is the mass trespass of Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, in April 1932, when 400 hikers protested about lack of access to the then private grouse moor. Bottom right the reward notice which subsequently appeared in the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*. Fifty years later, one of the original organizers, Mr Bernard Rothman, now aged 72, led a re-enactment, pictured top. Today, Kinder forms the southern end of the 250-mile Pennine Way, opened in April 1965. The Ramblers' Association, formed in 1935 with 1,200 members, is now 43,000-strong.



Humour from the rostrum of the AGM, and fears that the RA would be open to charges of jumbleism. A closer look at Harding's preoccupations might not have allayed the worries, for his songs and his patter show few signs of love for the politician, a breed with whom the association, like any other

moreover... Miles Kington

## Now for the other side of the coin

What do you think of the decision to withdraw the English pound note? Here are some of the interesting letters I have received on the subject.

From the Bishop of Milton Keynes

Sir, The church has never been slow to welcome change, if that change be good and positive. What we have to ask ourselves here, I think, is whether the pound coin is a force for good in society today, or merely another way of rendering unto Caesar those things which perhaps belong to God.

You know, I often think that life is a bit like a pound note; it may be worn out but God will always pay the bearer in the end. What I am trying to say, I think, is that I have absolutely no opinion about the new pound coin, but I felt I ought to write a letter on the subject anyway.

Yours till eternity.

From Col James Witherspoon

Sir, I am not surprised that they have decided to phase out the pound note. It was a nasty, tawdry little innovation to begin with, as I said at the time. And I am very glad we are getting back to the good old sovereign at last. You may be interested to know that I have never once used a pound note in all those years but have always preferred to let my bills mount up instead.

If my creditors care to get in touch with me again, I shall be happy to settle up in the new coinage. To prevent congestion, I will deal with accounts up to and including 1925 to begin with.

Yours sincerely,

From the President of the Royal College of Dieticians

Sir, It is not often realized that the old pound note had some nutritional value, containing traces of calcium, iron and vitamin C. It was also, of course, rich in roughage, as anyone who has ever eaten a pound note will testify.

But the new pound coin contains nothing of use to the human body whatsoever. I am not suggesting that the eating of pound notes was ever common, or that it has been encouraged by this college, merely pointing out that somebody stranded without proper food on, say, a

desert island or a motorway service area, could always survive on the contents of his wallet. This, I fear, will no longer be true.

Your faithfully,

From Mr Donald W. Quickshot

Sir, I thought you might be interested to know that the new pound coin is exactly the same size, shape and weight as the telephone tokens used in Malaysia to make phone calls. This means that if you wish to phone from Malaysia and have no tokens, you can always use a pound coin!

You may object to this that it would make the phone call much more expensive and is thus a pointless idea. I would agree with you. However, the reverse is also true and Malaysian telephone tokens can be used in England in all slot machines normally taking a pound coin!

You may object to this that there are no slot machines in England that take a pound coin, and it is thus pointless to collect Malaysian tokens. I would agree with this. But these are early days yet.

Yours and everything.

From Professor Rodney Bingo

Sir, We are always being told by the Tories that increased efficiency leads to lower costs which in turn lead to lower prices for the consumer. Now Mr Nigel Lawson tells us that this new quid piece is cheaper to make and lasts longer. Why then has he not passed on the benefit to the consumer by charging less for his new coins?

I estimate they should be on sale for no more than about 60 or 65p. Until the price of the new coin goes down, I can only assume that Tory thinking is a sham.

Yours etcetera.

From Mr Arthur Koestler

Sir, Yes, it's really me, Arthur Koestler! Yes, I'm calling you from the other side to say that there really is a lot going on up here! They have everything here - books, decent coffee, relaxed licensing laws, everything! And guess what they use for money? Do you give up? Well, it's not paper and it's not metal it's pip pip pip. pip damn, my money has run out I'll call you again soon. Bye.

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2 Sesame sweetmeat (5)	5 In front (6)	16 Self (3)	20 Bagpipes player (5)
3 Evasion (7)	8 Put (3)	17 Animal structure (7)	21 Each (5)
4 Defamation (7)	9 Thorax lining (6)	22 Thick wad (5)	
5 Local rule (5)	10 Voicebox (6)		
6 Premier (5)	11 Wise men (4)		
7 Reconciliation (7)	12 City centre (8)		
13 Religious (3)	14 Carpenter (6)		
	17 History records (6)		
	19 Call to court (8)		
	22 Nothing (4)		
	24 Persons (6)		
	25 Exaggerate (6)		
	26 Raised edge (3)		
	27 Tempestuous (6)		
	28 Over there (6)		
DOWN			
1 Sesame sweetmeat (5)			
2 Evasion (7)			
3 Defamation (7)			
4 Local rule (5)			
5 Premier (5)			
6 Reconciliation (7)			
7 Religious (3)			
SOLUTION TO No 496			
ACROSS: 8 Compassionate 9 Lid 10 Conundrum 11 Sneer 13 Eminent			
16 Spotted 19 Liane 22 Righteous 24 Tom 25 London airport			
DOWN: 1 Scales 2 Smudge 3 Baccarat 4 Usance 5 John 6 Mairie			
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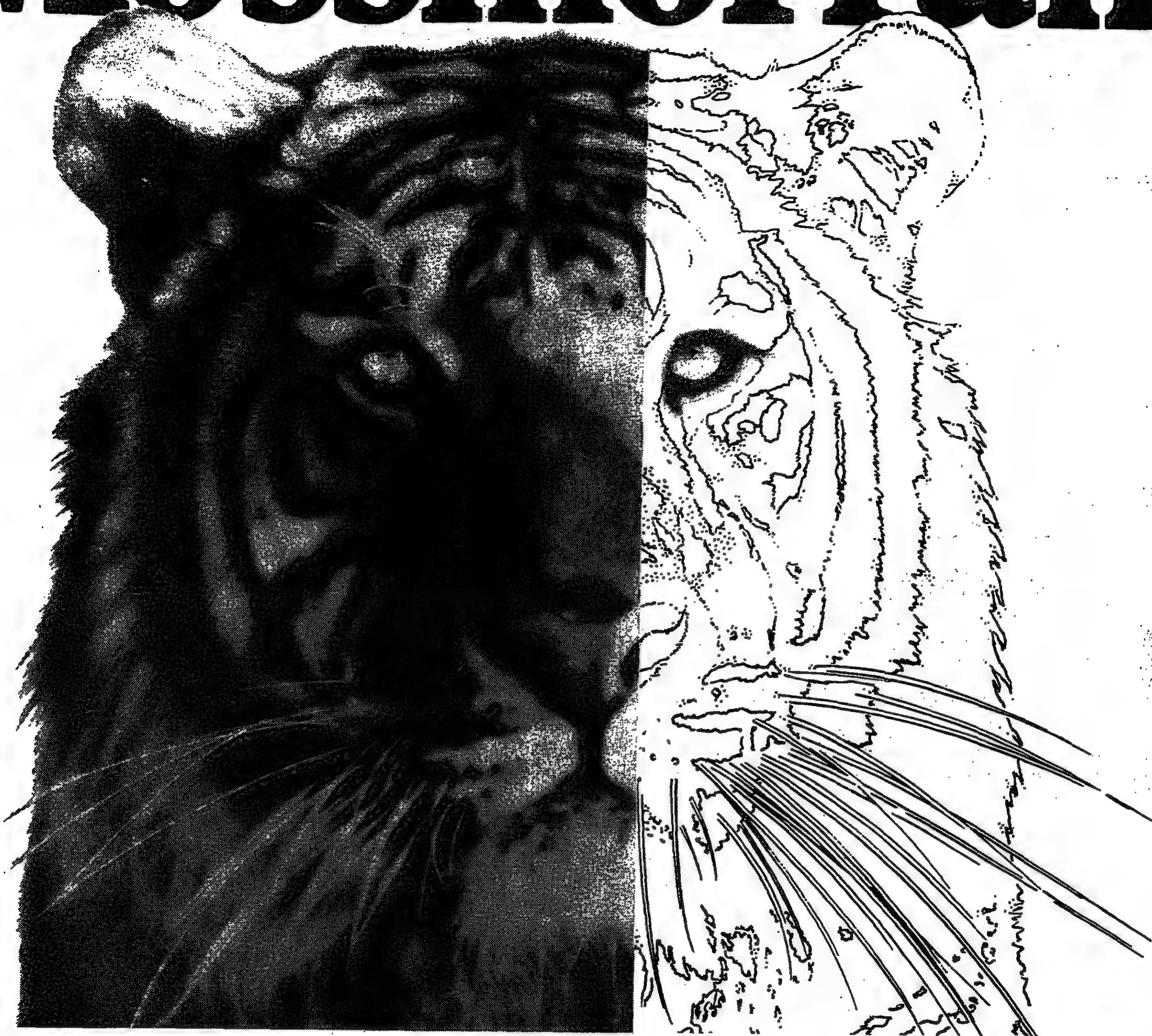
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AIR FRANCE

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# Mossmorran



## How Esso intend completing the picture

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Esso look forward with confidence to providing supplies of oil and gas for Britain well into the 21st century.





## FRIDAY PAGE

## From Brünnhilde to modern Marlene

EUROPEAN  
WOMEN

Part 3



In our final report on women's equality in Europe, Michael Binyon reveals how German women are dissatisfied with the progress they have made and why they fear a backlash

There is a paradox in West Germany. The chic, rich, independent women of the Federal Republic, a country that lays official emphasis on equal opportunity, social justice and democratic rights, would appear to be among the least affected by traditions of male dominance, but it is just not so. German women would seem to share with those in Scandinavia and other northern cultures an influence and position notably more pronounced than in Latin cultures. But in reality the fight for equal rights is fiercer in West Germany than in most European countries precisely because women still perceive a big gap between expectation and achievement.

On the surface it looks as if much has been achieved in the past 10 years. The Social Democratic Government systematically encouraged the advancement of women in all areas, and legislation laid down a framework for equality. A high proportion of women now have jobs and traditional male occupations have opened their doors to women.

There are women priests, women company directors, editors and ministers. The Foreign Ministry has just appointed its fourth woman as ambassador to Tanzania. Cities such as Hamburg and Cologne have set up permanent offices to ensure equal opportunities for women and roughly a quarter of all new businesses are set up by women. All political parties have paid increasing attention to women's rights, the Bundestag has debated the issue and the Green Party is now headed entirely by women.

Yet it is still difficult in Germany to name more than a dozen women who are leaders in their profession. There are few women journalists and broadcasters and even fewer senior civil servants. Women make up barely 10 per cent of the Bundestag. Apart from 70

medical assistants, there are no women in the German Armed Forces. The top jobs in banking and commerce are overwhelmingly held by men. And women musicians, as Sabine Meyer found at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, often have a hard task entering the male-dominated world of music and the arts.

Feminist groups are also alarmed by what they see as a comprehensive threat to many of the gains of the 1970s. They look with concern at the new emphasis on motherhood - an emphasis the Christian Democrats found struck a warm chord among many voters last year, and one which chimes in well with worries about the low German birthrate and the general public hostility to children. They detect an attempt by society to get women back into the home, and even a trace of the old three Ks ideal - *Kinder, Küche, Kirche* (children, kitchen, church).

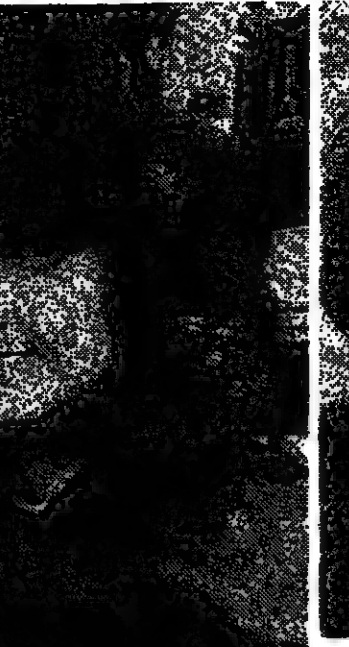
They point to recent legislation by the centre-right Government which they claim has been to the disadvantage of women:

Reform of the divorce law, once again raising the possibility of court action to determine the "guilt" of one or other party.

Cut in student grants, which opponents say will inevitably fall harder on women, who will face greater pressure against going to college than male students and who will find it harder to repay state loans.

Renewed attempts to tighten up the abortion law and the recent attack by the Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs on a leading birth control advisory organization; the controversial cut in post-natal allowances for women and the tight economic policies which have squeezed the number of industrial training places.

All this, women's groups argue, is symptomatic of a new



Breaking down barriers: From left, businesswoman Grete Schickedanz, trade union leader Monika Wulf-Mathies, sex empire owner Beate Uhse, musician Sabine Meyer and politician Petra Kelly

conservatism that is still unwilling to make equal opportunity an economic reality. They point to a statement, well-publicized and widely supported, by Herr Manfred Rummel, the popular Mayor of Stuttgart, who said that in awarding jobs, preference should be given to heads of families rather than to women whose husbands were already employed.

The government denies that any of its policies have reduced women's opportunities. The Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs has a section to coordinate legislation affecting women's interests, enforce existing laws on equality and encourage further moves. It has a yearly budget of DM 3,800,000 (slightly more than £1m) for research, seminars, conferences and pilot projects, and has been active in such things as setting up model shelters for battered wives, promoting research on the

effects of divorce on families and trying to improve the lot of housewives.

Frau Ellen Wolf, head of the section and a vice-president of the Advisory Committee on Equality in Brussels, said that in terms of pay and the position of women, Germany statistically was approximately middle of the European Community table. But the Bonn government did not think a policy of affirmative action, as practised in the United States, would be appropriate to achieve advances. She favoured instead voluntary efforts, and pointed to the role played not only by the radical lobby groups but by the more established women's organizations such as the German Women's Council, set up in 1951. This umbrella organization for dozens of political and religious women's groups, with a total combined membership of more than six million, wields powerful influence behind the

scenes on the established political parties, trade unions and employers.

Frau Wolf acknowledged a change of emphasis in the present government's social policies, but added: "We have no intention of sending women back into the home, what we want to do is improve the opportunities for those women who do stay at home."

There are clear and sometimes bitter differences in attitude here between generations. The Greens, who are mainly supported by the young, have adopted unashamedly feminist policies and have been vocal in denouncing discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace, male chauvinism in politics - including the Bundestag - and remaining legal obstacles to full equality.

One of the women behind the party is Petra Kelly, who as a former leader of the Greens in

the Bundestag made it a force to be reckoned with in West German politics. Ironically, it is in business that women have made the most substantial gains recently. The number of company

presidents has quadrupled since the mid 1970s, and there are now more than 100,000 women who control firms with a yearly turnover of more than DM1m.

They have spread out beyond the female ghettos of boutiques, hairdressers and cosmetics to car parts, steelworks, rolling mills, shipbuilding and haulage firms. Their financial acumen has been tellingly demonstrated by the 1982 statistics on bankruptcy: of the record number of more than 1,500 firms that went out of business, not a single one was headed by a woman.

The women who control Germany's big companies are much in the limelight: Frau Grete Schickedanz of the giant mail order firm Quelle, and of course Frau Beate Uhse who runs a firm that perhaps more than any other is a symbol of the male world - the Beate Uhse Sex Shops.

The women's movement in Germany is split between those who want equality of opportunity within the present framework and those who insist the framework itself is wrong and must be changed.

This success, however, is not quite the tribute to emancipation it might seem, for most of the companies headed by women were founded and built up by men. In two-thirds of all cases the women did not plan a business career, but inherited the concern from fathers or husbands.

One reason for women branching out on their own is their lack of success in reaching the top of companies run by men. Only 2 per cent of all top positions in German business are held by women.

Those who have made it against the odds are noticeably reluctant to draw any conclusion about the role their sex played in this. They are what can be called the "Thatcher" women who have competed and won in male-dominated fields, and who do not like to be asked how this was possible as women.

A good example is one of Germany's toughest women in a tough field: Frau Monika Wulf-Mathies, head of the Transport and Public Service Union, the second largest trade union in West Germany. She has just been overwhelmingly re-elected, and has promised a militant campaign to try to win a shorter working week for her members. She is the first woman union leader and the first representative of a college educated younger generation - she is 42 - to reach such a senior position in the trade union movement.

The women's movement in Germany is split between those who want equality of opportunity within the present framework and those who insist the framework itself is wrong and must be changed.

## Escaping from the old polished parlour image

PATRICIA CLOUGH, who lived in West Germany for eight years, writes: Behind the pet curtains and potted plants in millions of German windows reigns a neatness and ultra-spotlessness which seems to give the inhabitants a feeling of safety and of being in control. It is usually the lady of the house, still, who takes a pride in keeping it that way. Families are still made to wear bedroom slippers in the house.

In many homes, standards have relaxed somewhat with the more permissive atmosphere of the past two decades, especially where jobs compete for a woman's time and change her priorities. But the old instinct is often not far from the surface: a young left-wing feminist can

be as aggressively houseproud about her chic, off-beat pad as her grandmother was about her stuffy parlour.

It seems unfair that German women should have had to wait so long for any semblance of real equality since it was among younger women to seductive silk and lace, sporty skirts and jumpers to chic designer clothes. West Germany, after the United States, is now one of the biggest markets for international fashion.

Healthy eating - not simply a new fad in West Germany - and a fondness for exercise and sport has produced any amount of beautiful slim figures on which to hang these clothes. The Marlene side of German womanhood is taking over.

of plain, "sensible" shoes and mackintoshes, clothes chosen for their image closer to Brünnhilde than Marlene.

With affluence came travel, wider education and the desire to be fashionable. Sensible cotton undies are giving way among younger women to seductive silk and lace, sporty skirts and jumpers to chic designer clothes. West Germany, after the United States, is now one of the biggest markets for international fashion.

Healthy eating - not simply a new fad in West Germany - and a fondness for exercise and sport has produced any amount of beautiful slim figures on which to hang these clothes. The Marlene side of German womanhood is taking over.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

## The screen of fear

Any link between birth defects and an environmental hazard is bound to strike fear into the hearts of pregnant women or those wishing to conceive. The latest scare comes from reports of women who worked on visual display units (VDUs) during pregnancy and went on to deliver handicapped babies or suffer miscarriages.

Unravelling the evidence and putting it into perspective is difficult: so little work has been done either to substantiate or refute the claims, that any conclusions are based on opinion and are, as a result, controversial.

Reports of clusters of babies born with handicaps and unusually high rates of miscarriages come mainly from the United States and Canada. A study of pregnancies among female staff at the Department of Employment in Runcorn, Cheshire, is causing concern. There are some reservations and criticisms of the statistical basis of the study but the indications, so far, are that 36 per cent of the pregnancies of women working on VDUs did not have a normal outcome, compared with 16 per cent of those who were not using the equipment. There were 55 pregnancies in the VDU group: 14.3 per cent ended with a miscarriage, 6.7 per cent in still birth and 22 per cent in some kind of malformation. For the other women there were 5.3 per cent miscarriages, fewer than 1 per cent still births and 11 per cent malformations.

In small groups of women miscarriage rates of more than 50 per cent have been found. The expected miscarriage rate in the general population is between 15 and 20 per cent. As Dr Colin Mackay, of the Health and Safety Executive, explains, in small groups of women it may appear to be as low as 5 per cent or as high as 40 per cent without any external factors being responsible. Reports of high rates of spontaneous abortions in a small group of women may be put down to chance and are just distributions around the average.

Nevertheless, further investigation needs to be done on whether working on a VDU is particularly stressful during pregnancy. Sitting down at a desk should be less demanding than, say, working in a factory where the job requires lifting and carrying.



VDU operator at work... and also at risk?

However, staring at a small screen can cause strain. Tony Webb, of the London Hazards Centre, says many people work on a VDU for six to eight hours without a break. Complaints received at the centre suggest that as many as 90 per cent of regular VDU users suffer from burning eyes, headaches, neck ache and back ache and their symptoms become dramatically worse after a four-hour stint.

"If there is stress," says Mr Webb, "it is likely to increase the number of miscarriages. In Canada and Sweden there are recommendations which limit work on a VDU to one hour at a time, plus a 15-minute break, up to a maximum of four hours a day."

But the main area of concern is the possibility that the screens are emitting X-rays or low-frequency radiation which might damage unborn babies. Accord-

ing to Dr Mackay, we are all exposed to some background X-rays, whatever we do. If a pregnant woman were exposed to the maximum level of rays internationally recommended to be acceptable for the whole period of her pregnancy, it would add only a quarter to the background level.

"VDUs, it must be remembered, do not emit anywhere near that maximum," Dr Mackay stresses. "Similarly, the levels of other radiation from VDUs are very much lower than the current standards."

Mr Webb takes a different line. "There is no safe level of radiation. In addition, there is no conclusive evidence that these low levels do not cause damage," he says.

"Both X-rays and other radiation can be reduced by protecting the source with a metal cage and changing the type of screen from the normal tube to the newer liquid crystal displays or plasma screens."

Mr Webb says pregnant women and their employers should ask whether they really need to use a VDU or whether they can just as easily work from a print-out or an alternative.

"Any woman who has outstanding doubts should have the right to transfer to other work," he says.

But a cautionary note has been sounded by Richard Beard, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at St Mary's Hospital, London.

He said: "Very little is known except that no harmful radiation comes from the machines. If there are problems they may be due to stress. Any woman who is worried about malformations would be subject to a detailed ultrasound scan."

However, he suggested a detailed prospective study into the use of VDUs.

## Pain barrier

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, has announced plans to limit the number of drugs available on NHS prescription. So far the proposals affect only medicines for "minor and self-limiting ailments" - cough and cold remedies, antacids, laxatives and mild pain-killers.

There are also plans to restrict the numbers of benzodiazepine sedatives and tranquilizers available. Instead of the full range of these drugs only a few basic medicines will now be available on NHS prescription. The proposals could mean that some drugs such as Benlylin for coughs, Distalgic for pain and Ativan for anxiety will no longer be on the NHS - not even generic versions.

Anyone still wanting them would be able to buy them over the counter or on private prescription. Many of the drugs affected can be bought at the chemist's, and many cost less than the prescription charge.

However, up to 80 per cent of NHS prescriptions are for patients exempt from charges who would not have paid anything if their doctor had prescribed these products.

But drugs available only on prescription such as Mogadon sleeping tablets and Valium tranquilizers will be available in a cheaper generic form and in any case a month's supply for those wishing to stay with the brand name costs less than £2. But a month's supply of Ativan will cost nearly £3. Dormonoc around £4.50 and Librium around £2.40.

## Hidden dangers down on the farm

What is going to happen to Joe Grundy? The untimely death of Haydn Jones who played the irascible but strangely lovable character in *The Archers* for nearly a decade, leaves the producers in a dilemma. Do they try to find a replacement actor or do they bring his life to an end as well? Joe Grundy had complained that he suffered from

The disease is easily treated if diagnosed promptly although it can be debilitating and shortness of breath may persist. Deaths from the disease are not unknown: in 1983, for example, 14 were recorded. Most sufferers have their first attacks in their fifties. The disease may take 20 years to develop.

If the producers are looking for a dramatic end for Joe they could opt for *Weil's Disease*, from which farmers are also at risk. This is caused by a highly dangerous bacteria transmitted by rats, which are not unknown at Grange Farm. A person infected will suffer severe flu-like symptoms and life-threatening jaundice if not treated immediately.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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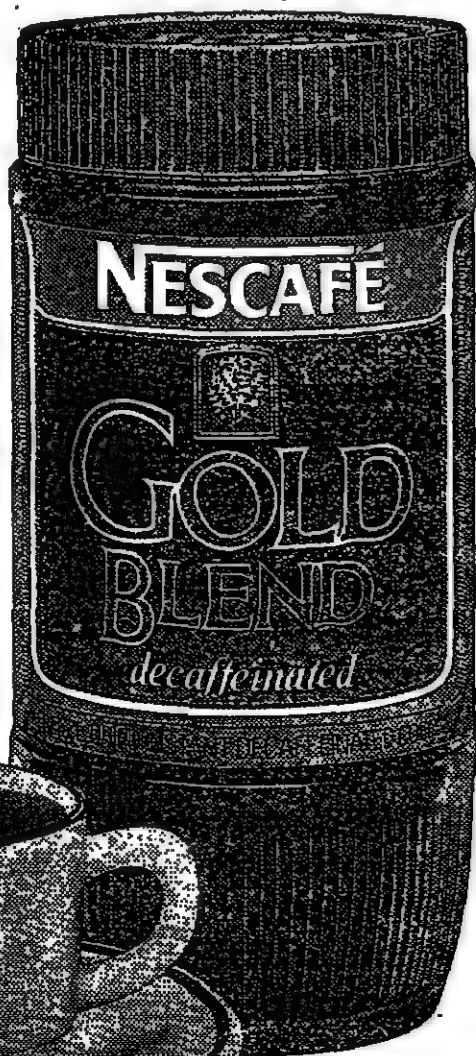
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presets and digital synthesized tuning.

The CRW-67 twin cassette deck was optional, so he had to have one. It's got the lot - automatic search and Dolby® B noise reduction included.

The old boy tells us the CD Digital Audio Player has forward and reverse track selection and a programme memory. It's amazing how he's grasped the jargon.

The Fisher 725 two-speed VHS video recorder with infra-red remote control will

record up to eight hours of programmes at one go. Though I don't suppose we'll need the built-in Dew Protection System.

The 21" remote control colour TV has a 'Flat Square Tube' (for superb picture definition) and teletext, so we can catch the latest chilling news from the Stock Exchange.

All in all, I have to admit it: even though this blessed Fisher gear has cost us the year's heating budget, I'm genuinely beginning to warm to it.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### No standing room

Robin Harris, Leon Brittan's special adviser at the Home Office, is being hotly tipped to head the research department at Conservative Central Office. There has been much speculation in the past few weeks about why it has taken so long to fill the job since the previous incumbent, Peter Cropper, was grabbed by Nigel Lawson. The answer, of course, was that initially a condition of the job was that candidates were asked not to stand for Parliament at the next General Election. Sources say Harris, who stood as the unsuccessful Tory candidate for Tooting at the last election, may have been persuaded by Mrs Thatcher to waive his parliamentary ambitions temporarily. Meanwhile Michael Portillo is tipped for the job of head of Tory PR, following the death of Anthony Shrimley. Negotiations for the transfer of Portillo, special adviser to the Treasury, have been put in abeyance, however, since he is on the shortlist for Enfield Southgate. Watch this space if he fails to be selected.

### Home from home

I hear of a sequel to my piece on how Miners' Back-to-Work campaigner Irene McGibbon had her home daubed with paint after the *Morning Star* printed her full address for the benefit of "interested miners". Scarcely had the ink dried on her complaint to the Press Council than *Mail on Sunday* columnist Alan Williams printed the address and telephone number of *Morning Star* editor Tony Chater, inviting "well-wishers" to contact him. Williams is now also the subject of a Press Council complaint. Who made it - and what the repercussions were of Williams's piece - Chater is not prepared to discuss.

### Missing the point

Julia Morley is not the only one who gets headaches from her Miss World beauty. When she reported to Lord Lichfield that one contestant did not speak anything but Serbo-Croat. Exasperated, he instructed a translator to teach her the answers to the eight statutory questions in English, parrot-fashion. All was going dandy, until Lichfield received orders on his earphone from the TV control room to miss out question 7. "So where have you been?" he duly asked. "Dr Henry Kissinger", she replied.

### Channel packets

The launch of the 1984 Beaujolais Nouveau in Maastricht on Wednesday night was not an occasion for black ties and spitting bows. The English runners wore rally jackets and emptied their glasses as if there were no tomorrow, let alone a 300-mile drive ahead. Among the 151 were two leather-clad motor cyclists, drivers of a pair of Harley Street ambulances, Nicholas Parsons and a north country engineer who had not told his wife he had travelled via Amsterdam's red light district. In the end the first *nouveau* on British soil did not arrive on wheels - or even in a bottle. One hundred-and-fourty-four litres landed at Southend airport just after 1 am, packed precariously in Col. van's wine boxes. The wine snobs said as was much as this year's sun-starved vintage deserved.



"I thought money lenders were the traditional target"

### Mac's wet

No doubt now to whose mantle Energy Secretary Peter Walker is aspiring. On Tuesday, in his maiden speech to the Lords, the Earl of Stockton decried "mutual hatred" and said the present divided state of Britain broke his heart. Yesterday from the office of the last remaining "wet" in the Cabinet, came invitations to editors and political journalists to hear Walker give the first - and hitherto unpublished - annual Harold Macmillan lecture next week. The subject: "The Middle Way: 50 Years On". Collusion? Coincidence? Not at all, exclaim the National Union of Young Conservatives, who are organizing the talk. Lord Stockton, says chairman John Guthrie, is the life patron of the YCs and "this is something we could do to institutionalize his way of thinking, so it is permanently remembered and respected inside the Conservative Party". Walker, he points out, was invited because he is the YC national president, though it is obviously appropriate that someone close to Harold Macmillan, personally and politically, should address the first lecture. This talking in code can be tiresome.

PHS

The Government has consistently mismanaged relations with Argentina since the fall of the military junta and the election of President Alfonsín. Our quarrel was with the repressive junta which invaded British territory, not with the Argentines as a people.

When President Alfonsín was installed we should have sent a high-powered representative to the celebrations to underline our determination to restore good relations. Instead we sent a telegram of good wishes. A few weeks ago, when President Alfonsín addressed the European Parliament, most of the British MEPs stayed away, according to some reports on direct orders from Downing Street.

Democracy is a fragile commodity in Argentina. Raúl Alfonsín is unusual in that he has never held office under any military regime, but opposed them. As a *Times* leader said of his government a year ago: "It may be unpopular, given the enormous and painful tasks of reconstruction which face it. It is all the more important therefore that Britain shows that it is easier to talk to a civilian government about the Falkland Islands than it was or would be with a military one." On four distinct occasions during the last 20 years, two of them during the dictatorship, it has been declared British policy to secure a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina. It would therefore be a remarkable turn-around to refuse to contemplate any conditions for such transfer to a democratic Argentina. Yet British policy is vague and ambiguous.

Prior to the Berné talks this

## Falkland factors we can no longer ignore

by David Steel

summer, the Argentines were happy to leave the issue of sovereignty well down the agenda, to allow time to heal wounds. Unfortunately the British infuriated not only the Argentines but also the Swiss hosts by expecting the issue to be raised formally and then forgotten. The British issued a declaration that "we are not prepared to discuss sovereignty" - a phrase capable of meaning either "we are not ready to" or "we are not willing to". Missing from the statement was either the word "yet" or "ever". Subsequent statements by ministers have failed to clarify the matter.

This intended ambiguity cannot serve as a long-term policy. Mrs Thatcher is wrong if she believes that support for the task force applies also to a dead-end policy over the islands' future. The policy first went off the rails when she declared the wishes of the islanders to be "paramount", echoed foolishly by Labour's then foreign affairs spokesman, Peter Shore.

As the *Financial Times* put it in a recent leader: "The wishes of the Falkland Islanders are not paramount: they are subservient to the wishes of the British Parliament and ultimately to the readiness of the British people to sustain them in a strange and highly unsatisfactory situation. It is neither realistic nor honest for the British Government to hide behind the notion of absolute self-determination which can only be applicable to a territory that is potentially independent."

A more sensible doctrine has been embraced in the case of Hong Kong, where the impracticability of hanging on after the New Territories lease expires in 1997 was the main consideration. So the interests of 5 million people have been protected as far as possible in negotiations between the two governments and their wishes confined to a realistic choice between take it or leave it.

Yet the 1,800 people on the Falklands are apparently for ever more to dictate a ludicrous dent in

our defence and other budgets - at a time when every other area of public spending is under constraint - and to dictate a hostile attitude to a major democracy in Latin America.

A willingness to put sovereignty back on the agenda could lead to fairly swift restoration of diplomatic ties, formal cessation of hostilities, the lifting of the Falklands protection zone and a return to normal trade. A fair deal on the Falklands would substantially reduce public expenditure in Britain and help stabilize the Alfonsín government.

What would be a fair deal? The agreement between Argentina and Chile on the Beagle Channel gives hope that a distinction could be agreed between the Falklands and the other islands, South Georgia and the Sandwich group, where the British title is generally accepted as stronger.

As to the Falklands themselves, the interests of the islanders and their way of life (disrupted by the Fortress Falklands policy) must be protected. The islands would also have to be demilitarized under some international guarantee.

There was something rotten in the state of Argentina which lay at the heart of the Falklands invasion. The military junta had an appalling record on human rights at home as well as in this foreign adventure. We should wake up to the fact that it has gone. We should not repeat the aimless vacillation towards the Falklands which characterized the two decades before the tragedy and which, as the Franks Report clearly indicates, helped bring it about.

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### Michael Ignatieff assesses new arguments on the state of socialism



recovery and reconquest of their internal market.

It is a welcome relief from the go-it-alone fantasies of the Little Englanders of the left to find emphasised the necessary European dimension of a socialist recovery. But the abiding paralysis of Europe leave one wondering whether Stuart Holland's proposals are not dogged by that besetting socialist vice: pious internationalism.

The revival of demand in Europe is of little use, as the Cambridge economist John Eatwell argues, if the collapse of British industry during the 1980s leaves no British suppliers in the field.

It is in the field of industrial policy that new socialist thought shows the most tenacious attempt to throw off the dead hand of a Clause 4 nationalization strategy.

Peter Kellner's clever attack on suspicion of the market mechanism shows clearly that ownership of industry and banking is less important than the establishment of a "rule of law" over the market place, whereby investment decisions are made a matter of democratic choice. The challenge is to make planning acquire some of the responsiveness of markets, by bringing the planning process as close as possible to the workers who make the goods and the consumers who buy them.

This is the thrust behind the local planning boards set up by Labour-controlled authorities. The "popular planning units" fund research and development into socially useful products which could revitalize the shattered industry of inner cities. Whether local planners prove more efficient than the local bank manager in spotting investment opportunities remains to be seen.

The biggest pity among socialists is that the trade union movement represents the real interests of the working class. This is doubtful enough, but it is even more

preposterous to claim that the interests of the organized working class are synonymous with those of the community as a whole. Among the *New Socialist* writers, only the LSE Professor Brian Abel-Smith - who watched a Labour government being brought to its knees by the claims of public sector workers in the 1979 winter of discontent - nails this ptery for what it is. Socialism, he writes, is about equality: "The Labour movement is about differentials."

Many key elements of a genuinely socialist economic strategy would call for conflict with the Labour movement. As women trade unionists have found to their cost, policies such as job sharing, overtime bans, a minimum wage policy, the 35-hour week, and equal pay for equal work have met with almost as much resistance from unions as from employers.

There is also an obvious contradiction in principle between free collective bargaining and a national economic strategy capable of containing inflation. This contradiction destroyed the credibility of Labour's economic package in the last manifesto, and may do so again.

One of the ironies of Mrs Thatcher's attack on trade unions is that she has secured them against attack from the left. Yet the day of reckoning within the socialist movement must come if there is to be a viable and believable socialist strategy for the next election. The test of socialist leadership will be having the courage to take on one's enemies, and God knows they are legion, but also one's friends.

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The Future of the Left edited by James Curran, published by Polity Press & New Socialist, £16.50 hardback, £4.95 paperback. Essays in Socialist Thought, edited by Ben Frow, published by Heinemann Educational Books, £19.50 hardback, £8.50 paperback.

## Flick: will this really be the last reel?

time, Herr Kohl believes, to call a halt to the scandal.

The scandal had been going on so long that public and political sensibilities had become dulled. The public had become cynical and politicians had failed to see the moral implications of their connivance with big business in getting round the laws on political donations. But now the moral dimension has suddenly been brought home to those machine politicians who supported an amnesty for all those firms that fiddled their taxes while lining the parties' coffers in the 1970s. That a politician of Herr Barzel's standing could apparently have accepted so much money for himself, rather than for his party, from one firm under such clear suspicion of trying to win friends in high places does set a dangerous, if not a criminal, precedent.

Fresh comparisons of West Germany to a "banana republic" are apt, for the phrase comes from the notorious example of the powerful American company that secured its commercial interest simply by buying up all the leading politicians in Central America.

No one suggests that Flick ever achieved anything on that scale. Nor

were all donations intended to secure political influence. Many small firms were unclear about the rather hazy rules on supporting political parties.

Two questions arise from the Flick affair, however, which today's debate will have to clarify before the political establishment can clear its name. The first is how such a lamentable situation came about; the second is whether it could happen again.

The answer to the first is rooted in the special circumstances of Germany's postwar rebirth of democracy. The open support by big business of Hitler made German industry wary of getting involved in politics again, and politicians fearful of accepting direct contributions.

But politics costs money, especially in a country where politicians think nothing of chartering a plane if they are away from Bonn and late for a Bundestag vote, and charging the state.

able charities to whom businessmen could happily pass on donations. A series of dubious cultural, religious and social organizations sprang up and politicians were careful not to ask questions about where their funds came from.

This sloppy accounting led some people to forget the golden rule in politics - never accept envelopes containing cash, whatever the source. It is now up to the courts to prove whether there was ever a *quid pro quo* in the Flick case.

The government has already answered the second question, pushing through changes in the law last year to make all political donations more visible and accountable, while allowing parties more freedom to raise their funds from the public.

Herr Kohl has insisted that Flick should not scare people from putting their money where their political values lie. Nor, he said, was German democracy up for sale - but until the work of the parliamentary investigating committee is done and all the possible incriminating evidence examined, few people will be convinced of either. And a number of politicians still tremble to see what will be in each new issue of *Der Spiegel*.

Michael Binyon

David Watt

## In the long run, a bad short cut

I have been thinking of Archbishop John Morton, of blessed memory, Chancellor to King Henry VII and the author, as every school child knows, of that celebrated fifteenth century "Catch-22" known as *Morton's Fork* (or *Crutch*). If a nobleman appeared in the Chancellor's presence in fine raiment he was told that he could obviously afford a hefty tax assessment. If, on the other hand, he appeared in a down-at-the-heel guise Morton retorted that he must be saving so much that he had plenty to spare for the Exchequer. This play was a brilliant success except (as the authors of *1066 and All That* presumably remark) when Morton stuck the fork in too far.

Mrs Thatcher and the Treasury are making this last, fatal miscalculation over Britain's overseas representation and economic aid. For reasons of style, occupation and history - in short its "raiment" - the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is still assumed by many politicians and most of the public to be rich and an eminently suitable target for cuts.

Its outlying dependencies - the aid programme, the overseas service of the BBC and the British Council - are under permanent attack, from left or right, on grounds of conspicuous consumption and doubtful utility. But the fact is that both the diplomatic service and the other elements of the FCO vote are already so thin and impoverished that the cuts of £35m imposed on them this week are a genuine threat to their essential functions.

The fact that the Treasury has cunningly put Sir Geoffrey Howe in the position of having to make the decision about which of these responsibilities should be sacrificed does not make matters any better. The Foreign Secretary has allowed himself to be manoeuvred into a choice between jumping out of the window or retiring to the library with a pistol.

Politically speaking, of course, the least unpopular course would be to decimate the "champagne-swilling" diplomatic service itself. The trouble is that from the practical point of view this is potentially the most damaging strategy, for the simple reason that so much has already been done. The FCO lost 11 per cent of its jobs between 1968 and 1979, and another 10 per cent between 1979 and the present.

It could be, and was, argued that this rationalization was misguided at a time when the increased number of independent nations and the widening search for export markets obliged us to increase missions abroad by nearly 30. The counter-argument, which I supported myself, was a very powerful one - that in our new situation as a predominantly European power it was time we dispensed with a huge global network of political intelligence, and concentrated our efforts more economically on areas where our interests were most clearly involved.

We have now concentrated on our main trading and strategic partners, and increased economic activities of our diplomats, at the expense of the political. But we have also maintained a fairly wide network of small

missions elsewhere, very thinly spread.

This compromise has sometimes been attacked as self-indulgent, but it has been justified by the lessons we have been given since the first oil shock. Britain's growing vulnerability in a shrinking globe demands a wider and more flexible early-warning system than previously.

You can always point to the margin and say that one less second secretary or one fewer mission would not make much difference and you can go on repeating this process of degradation until there is nothing left except a tiny core of representation in the developed western countries. But at some point along this line the machine will become too weakened to respond to the minimum demands made on it. That point, I believe, is quite near.

Rather the same arguments apply to the BBC External Services and the British Council. Those ancillary means of promoting British influence are generally agreed to be a "good thing", and anyone who travels a lot rapidly comes to realize that they have an effect out of all proportion to the amount spent on them. The trouble, as in the case of the diplomatic service, is how to reply to the man from the Treasury who says it would not do much harm to cut out some broadcasts, say in French.

We are once again discussing marginal intangibles. We have been cutting them for a decade because it is easy to do so. But here, too, we have nearly reached a critical point at which further cuts will leave institutions that are not worth preserving.

At first sight the aid programme looks a much simpler candidate for the axe. After all, any aid is better than none and who can say what is enough or what is appropriate? In practice, however, because it is a moral issue and because many British businesses have an interest in the exports associated with it, it is not nearly so clear-cut.

We have already cut our aid by 19 per cent in real terms since 1979; and by dint of juggling and rearranging payments we have on the whole managed to do so without renegeing on previous commitments. But even without the Ethiopian crisis we have reached the end of that road. Any further cuts must now make embarrassing and possibly damaging dents in our bilateral relations with the Third World, as well as outraging the ethical considerations at the root of all economic aid.

The government does not seem to have given serious thought to the wider implications of what is proposed. That is partly the fault of the system which for all the panoply of the Star Chamber and so forth, still works on the basis of ministerial star-and-grab. But it is also the fault of the Foreign Secretary who, as far as I know, has never really tried to educate his colleagues on the importance of "intangibles".

Mr Lawson ought to reflect that in his case, unlike that of Archbishop Morton, he has a serious interest in the survival of his victim.

Philip Howard

## A tax we should all stamp on

Let us not be beastly to the book trade. Some of my best friends are publishers. Some publishers are as intelligent as some of the authors on their lists; and you can take that any way you want. The booksellers are generous liberal-minded men. It would be brutal and philistine to impose VAT on books, magazines, and newspapers, so driving small country booksellers out of business, forcing publishers to cut out lunch, and putting newspaper proprietors on the dole.

The recent remarkable crop of articles deploring the possible effect of a tax on publishing has been sown by the deliberately floated rumour that the Chancellor is thinking of extending VAT to publications in his next Budget. Since he will start to make up his mind on the matter around Christmas, now is the time for the trade to orchestrate its anticipatory protest; and now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party.

The argumentum ad misericordiam is a good one, but not, I think, good enough. I pity the poor struggling publishers, and, as a matter of fact, think that they produce more important work than the miners, the distillers, ICI, and even the theatrical producers. But I am in as good a position as anybody to know that more than 50 per cent of their products are trivial crap. Why should "newspapers" that are merely sheets for bingo, television programmes, and scandal go untaxed? Anyway, the function of the taxman is to extend his vile depredations impartially and equally over all classes and professions of men.

The argumentum ad crumenam is a good one, but not good enough. VAT on books and papers would hit most of the population in its pocket. But most of us would squeeze that bit extra to buy the new *Irish Murdoch*, or *The Times*, as it might be. In any case, if we were to charge what it actually costs to produce *The Times* even before the VATman comes, we should lose the legendary little old lady with two cats in Hastings, who is our most important reader.

Let us avoid the argumentum ad populum and the argumentum ad baculum, at least for the moment. I think that the argumentum scholasticum is the best one yet. Schools and colleges and universities are

already critically starved of books for teaching and research. A tax that increased the cost of books without increasing the budgets of schools to buy them by at least as much would be a barbarian attack on education.

But in fact we do not need any of these technical arguments, powerful as some of them are. The overwhelming argument is the one about the freedom of the press put by the trumpet of old *John Bull*: "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties." Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour: the Publishers' Association hath need of thee. Any tax, however small, that makes the freedom of speech more expensive, is a tax on liberty. The chief glory of every people arises from its authors, and, to a lesser extent, Samuel, from its newspapers. We cannot discriminate in this matter. If VAT falls on *The Jane Fonda Pop-Up Book of Anaerobic Jogging* there is no reason in taxman's equity why it should not fall on true poetry or original scholarship or school textbooks. Tax bingo-sheets, and you will soon have to tax *The Times*.

It is boring that we have to fight this battle again, since it was fought and won more than a century ago in the campaign to abolish the stamp tax on publication, the "tax on knowledge". I regret to have to tell you that on the occasion *The Times* was on the side of the infidel, against the abolition of the stamp duty, which would make it cheaper to publish rivals to its dominance of the press. In the Parliamentary select Committee Cobden asked the manager of *The Times* whether it would not be just to publish the cheapest possible papers, and "leave it to the sagacity of people, to their own self-interest and love of truth to find out what was sound". The manager replied tartly: "I have very little opinion of the sagacity of uneducated people."

We have moved on at New Printing House Square since then. A knowledge tax would be fiscally tidy. It would be just a small onerous in the vast maw of tax. Other countries do it without lapsing into tyranny and destitution: we know, we know. Nevertheless, VAT on publication will be resisted by all democrats as a thoroughly illiberal and reactionary measure.

مكتبات الأصل





## JOINING THE CLUB

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese prime minister, who visits London next week, is a fairly patient man. That is just as well because the patience of the proverbial saint would certainly be required for the task which Dr Soares undertook more than seven and a half years ago: that of negotiating Portugal's admission to the European Community. Dr Soares himself has spent much of that time in opposition, but he returned to power last year to find Portugal's application still waiting on the resolution of differences within the existing EEC about the budget and Britain's contribution to it.

Those differences were at last resolved, more or less, at the Fontainebleau summit this June, and last month European ministers went so far as to announce that Portugal and the EEC were embarked on an "irreversible" process of integration. This was confirmed by an agreement in principle signed by Dr Soares and Dr Garret FitzGerald, and is understood to mean that all major problems directly relating to Portuguese membership have now been solved. Yet Portugal still waits for the outcome of negotiations with Spain, which applied for membership a few months after her, since everyone agrees that it makes sense for them to join simultaneously; those negotiations themselves are still marking time while the existing EEC members struggle to agree on a common negotiating position.

In fact it is increasingly obvious that these negotiations among the Ten are the real negotiations, and that the package which emerges from them will have to be accepted by the applicants with little substantive change. That is a problem for all who have to deal with the EEC, as Dr Kissinger long ago pointed out, and for those who have the choice it is a strong argument for being in rather than out. If one is out one is excluded from a decision-making process so complex and difficult that its results, once reached, are extremely hard to alter, if only

because all concerned are too exhausted to reopen the file.

Of course Spain and Portugal do in theory have the option of rejecting the package offered to them and deciding to stay out after all. There must be some temptation to exercise that option out of anger at the unconscionable time they have been kept waiting, and at the fact that such progress as is achieved towards a common position of the Ten seems almost always to take the form of concessions by those who would be relatively generous to those who would be tougher. That results from another unwritten but observable law of the Community's functioning, namely the tendency to drift towards the position of the country with the strongest national interest at stake. That in turn is the inevitable result of having a Community which remains essentially an association of sovereign states, despite its supranational trappings.

Luckily, however, the Iberian peoples and their political leaders are mature enough not to allow such crucial decisions to be taken in anger. They will express anger, no doubt, and perhaps use it to obtain a few concessions of detail. But when it comes to a yes or a no they will, one can feel confident, accept that the balance of advantage for them is still in favour of a yes.

One reason for that is the one already alluded to, namely that a state once inside the Community has far greater leverage over its decisions than one on the outside. Even Britain, which had as the price of entry to accept a system of community finance which was fundamentally unfair to her, has eventually been able to get that corrected; and the "ungenerous" terms now likely to be offered to Spain and Portugal do not contain any such fundamental flaw as that. Most of the argument is about fisheries and food, and these are not areas where the two countries can conceivably find themselves actually worse off as a result of joining the EEC. What the lack of generosity amounts to is preventing them from benefiting

as much or as quickly as they would do if all the existing rules of the Community were applied to them without limitation and without delay.

To suppose that all those rules could have been applied to Spain without limit or alteration would certainly be naive. Some of them need altering in any case, irrespective of Spanish entry, which simply injects an extra urgency into the case for an overdue reform: the most flagrant example being the wine lake which, thanks to Italian overproduction and before any Spanish tributary flows into it, already fills the equivalent of 24,000 Olympic swimming-pools, because at present all unsold wine is automatically bought from the producers and distilled into alcohol. The French government is rightly insisting that this arrangement must in future be subject to a quota system - similar to that which France is having such difficulty in applying to milk, though in fact for wine it is much easier to operate. On this issue it is Italy rather than Spain that is going to have to accept a sacrifice - though it looks as if Signor Craxi will resist all the way to the Dublin summit at the beginning of next month.

The Spanish government has an additional reason for saying yes without further delay. It is committed to hold a referendum on Nato membership in February 1986 and all the signs are that it now wants Spain to remain in Nato, though probably on "French" terms i.e. without integration of its military forces. Even this will not be easy to sell to the Spanish voters, who lack the experience of common resistance to Nazism and are still prone to associate Nato with support for the Franco dictatorship. It would almost certainly be impossible in an atmosphere soured by failure to achieve membership of the EEC, whereas the immediate aftermath of Spain's full accession to the family of European democracies on January 1, 1986 would surely be the most auspicious timing that could be asked.

## HARD CASE, GOOD LAW

Hard cases make bad law, it is said, and the Law Lords who exonerated the Home Secretary yesterday from having abused his powers over parole of prisoners showed a true legal instinct in not letting themselves be swayed by the bad luck that had undoubtedly been suffered by the four prisoners who accused him. Mr Brittan stands vindicated in law, and it is good that the law affords him the discretion to act as he did.

It was at last year's Conservative Party conference that he announced the policy change which led to his being hauled before the House of Lords. He was faced there with a delicate double problem of prison overcrowding and public outcry about over-lenient sentences. It was difficult to act on the former without incurring the disfavour of delegates who still had Parliament's recent rejection of capital punishment freshly in mind. So he counterbalanced an announcement of earlier parole for several thousand short-term offenders by announcing that he would apply much stricter parole policies towards very serious offenders. Some categories of murderer, including those who killed police or prison officers or killed in the course of armed robbery, would normally have to serve at least 20 years before having any hope of parole.

This mollified the delegates, but caused distress elsewhere. Mr Brittan had omitted to consult the Parole Board in advance: several members ex-

pressed dismay, and one resigned. The probation officers called the change "cruel and inhuman", and the Prison Officers Association complained that in dealing with lifers its members would now be denied "carrot as well as stick".

But the most immediately affected were four prisoners who had been on the edge of being granted parole. Two of them with life sentences had been moved to an open prison (an acknowledged preliminary to parole). On the day of Mr Brittan's announcement they were moved back into a closed prison, and on strict application of the new rules now have five and nine years to wait before they can expect release. For men with "exemplary" prison records, Lord Scarman said in his judgment yesterday, the disappointment had a "shattering impact".

Mr Brittan's action was contested in court on several grounds, and Lord Scarman rejects them one by one. What ever courtesy might dictate, the statute does not oblige him to consult the Parole Board before formulating a new policy. Mr Brittan was not improperly fettering his own discretion because he made clear that although he would have a different general attitude in future, he would still have an eye for "genuinely exceptional circumstances".

He was not contravening the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which forbids

the imposition of heavier penalties than "the one applicable at the time the offence was committed"), because parole is always a privilege and never a right.

This is hard, but right. There is a doctrine of legitimate expectation in the law of judicial review, says Lord Scarman, but it implies a right to judicial review, not to automatic freedom. It would have been open to Mr Brittan to exercise his discretion and apply the "exceptional circumstances" rubric to the disappointed men, but in general he was right to make it clear that he was going to apply a different policy on parole applications. It is impossible for a Home Secretary to make such decisions without having an open or tacit general policy, and spelling the policy out helps to minimize the uncertainties and disappointments inevitably involved in applying for parole.

In arriving at a policy, he necessarily takes into account not only the circumstances of the individual cases but also wider considerations of deterrence and retribution. Mr Brittan was responding to a perceived public anxiety that too little weight was being given to deterrence - an anxiety which could undermine confidence in the parole system if disregarded. There is everything to gain by spelling out that he means take a more serious view of certain kinds of offence, so long as there is no question of applying an indiscriminate bar: and Mr Brittan has promised that he will not do that.

## Threat to medical care

From the Dean of St George's Hospital Medical School.

Sir, This year has seen the publication of the strategic planning frameworks for the next 10 years by the four Thames regional health authorities.

These frameworks pose a threat for all of London's acute medical services and all the London teaching hospitals of a kind not previously seen. There is little if any attempt to preserve either reasonable medical care for people living in London, or the special and precious qualities of teaching hospitals.

The frameworks have been produced to plan for a reduction in resources available to the Thames regions and to switch resources away from acute medical services to other care groups, and also away from London to the more rural parts of the regions.

The proposals for the teaching district of this medical school serve to illustrate the point.

Over the 10-year period the framework suggests a reduction of 45 per cent in acute bed numbers, a 34 per cent reduction in maternity beds, and a slight reduction in beds for the elderly. The acute beds in our

neighbouring district, also used for teaching, are to be cut by 47 per cent if the plan were implemented.

In 1981 the Secretary of State accepted the recommendations of the London Advisory Group that a 15 per cent cut between 1979 and 1988 in the total number of acute beds in London was justified: some of this reduction has already occurred.

Further cuts of the magnitude now proposed will lead to an unacceptably low level of provision for acute medical care for the whole London area and the loss of the unique qualities and established excellence of our university teaching hospitals.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD WEST, Dean,  
St George's Hospital Medical School,  
University of London,  
Cranmer Terrace,  
Tooting SW17,  
November 7.

## Fully entitled?

From Mr J. Anthony Hart

Sir, Mrs Quest-Ritson's concern (November 10) over the use of the term "Esquire" on envelopes reminded me that two months into a

year's teaching contract in France I had to my surprise and disappointment, received no mail from England, despite a daily search of the "H" pigeonhole.

It was only on seeing a pile of unopened letters in the "E" pigeonhole that I realised the French porter had been accumulating letters for some fictitious Monsieur Esq.

Yours faithfully,  
J. ANTHONY HART, Headmaster,  
Reigate St Mary's Preparatory School,  
Chart Lane,  
Reigate,  
Surrey,  
November 10.

## From Sir Ronald Lindsay

Sir, I address my youngest boy as "Master" at his prep school, and his elder brothers now at their public schools as "Esquire".

When will they decide that their (verbal) address to me will be "Father" in place of "Papa"?

Yours,  
RONALD LINDSAY,  
Coulthard,  
Colley Lane,  
Reigate,  
Surrey,  
November 10.

## On Japanese side of the fence

From Professor Yoshiko Furuki

Sir, I appreciated Mr Leather's letter (November 8) because it provided a view different from that old, stereotypical image of the Japanese as mere imitators. May I contribute a few more facts in support of Mr Leather's analysis?

The three major newspapers in Japan have, among them, a subscription of 20 million copies. That means the majority of the adult population (regardless of the colour of their collars) read, every day, a paper comparable with *The Times*, *The Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph* in quality.

According to a survey conducted every year for the past 15 years, 90 per cent of the Japanese consider themselves as belonging to "the middle class". Some critics consider this self-placement an illusion, but it is an illusion which has worked.

Japanese society is not as "structured" as some Britons think. Education, accompanied by efforts, can bring one up to the top of that 90 per cent bracket. One does not feel that his opportunity is limited by his father's occupation, his own class or accent.

There are many things I admire about this country. In fact, many Japanese, for generations, have tried to learn from you. And it is good to know that there are some people in this country who are ready to look at us in a different light. We would be very happy if such people should find a useful hint or two in that light.

YOSHIO FURUKI  
(Professor of English,  
Tsuda College, Tokyo),  
Darwin College,  
Cambridge,  
November 8

## Music in London

From Mr David Bedford and others

Sir, We are deeply disturbed by the programme planning of the four London symphony orchestras, which excludes almost entirely the work of living composers. London is still sometimes referred to as the musical capital of the world, but a mere glance at the activities of other international music centres shows that this is no longer remotely the case.

As a nation, we are rightly proud of our living writers, artists and film-makers but, on the evidence of the programmes for the present concert season, appear to be ashamed of contemporary composers.

As many events in London and elsewhere have proved, there is a substantial and enthusiastic audience for the music of today, especially when presented with flair and enterprise.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BEDFORD,  
MICHAEL BERKELEY,  
BRIAN ELIAS,  
JONATHAN HARVEY,  
JOHN HOPKINS,  
COLIN MATTHEWS,  
JOHN MCCABE,  
The Association of Professional Composers,  
81A Prory Road, NW6,  
November 9.

## Regard for ratepayers

From Mr Roland Rensch

Sir, For many years now some of us have been fighting to reduce extravagance and profligacy in the water industry. Just when we thought that a sense of responsibility and a genuine regard for efficiency had at last been established - and there would be a reversal of the swinging increases in charges of the past decade - the Government intervenes to insist upon an increase of 12 per cent or thereabouts (report, November 9).

Is this just one further example of taxation through the back door - which again will hit hardest the least affluent members of the community? If not, what steps will the Government be taking to ensure that the additional revenue - i.e. that which will accrue beyond the maximum increase which otherwise would have been necessary next April (say, 5 per cent) - is going to be spent, properly and efficiently upon overdue maintenance and upon essential capital works?

Ratepayers have the right to receive a satisfactory explanation now.

Yours sincerely,  
ROLAND RENSCH,  
8 Minshull Place,  
Park Road,  
Beckenham,  
Kent,  
November 10.

## Religious instruction

From Mr Howard Cunningham

Sir, Your leader on teaching religion in schools (October 31) was on the whole balanced and fair but failed to mention one current practice in many secondary schools. I refer to the integration of religious education into a general social studies course in the fourth and fifth years. Here is where the subject is losing its distinctiveness and cutting edge in our school curriculum. Many people teaching it have little or no religious persuasion or sympathy with the subject and unconsciously either leave it out altogether or treat it as pre-scientific myth.

Many schools are in fact (either consciously or unconsciously) breaking the law of the land, as well as the "moral law" which should allow young people a genuine choice to accept or reject a religious way of life.

Yours sincerely,  
HOWARD CUNNINGTON,  
The School of St David & St Katherine,  
Hillfield Avenue,  
Horsely, NB,  
November 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How to get help to the hungry

From the Acting Director of Christian Aid

Sir, It is desperately sad that when millions face death in Ethiopia you should devote space to castigating everything from the Organisation of African Unity to Christian agencies and War on Want under the tendentious title "Embezzled aid" (November 12).

Your readers were left with the notion that certain agencies, and spokesmen associated with them, had "kept quiet about Ethiopian oppression for fear of being prevented from doing any good". Oddly, you chose to associate your remarks with the two agencies which have been most outspoken about events in Ethiopia and who are largely working with those receiving little or no international aid or media attention - the rural populations in areas outside Government-controlled towns in the north of the country.

Christian Aid has spent £2.5m in Ethiopia since January, most of it trying to help the rural poor of Eritrea and Tigray to survive and improve their land. It has also made constant references to the imbalances in the levels of aid to those who need it most.

Many journalists visiting Addis Ababa continue to give the impression that aid is now getting through to all those who need it. But on November 3 your newspaper referred to new information from Christian Aid about the continuing civil war in Eritrea and the fact that vast numbers in northern Ethiopia are still not receiving any of the food now arriving from Addis, and the main ports.

They will not do so until the Ethiopian Government allows humanitarian agencies safe passage to enter those rural areas still cut off by the civil war. The two liberation movements involved are open to such action, but there has been no response on the Government side.

Those now going hungry in Ethiopia would be better served by *The Times* highlighting the necessity for swift action to all those in need.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN BAX,  
Acting Director,  
Christian Aid,  
PO Box No 1, SW9,  
November 13

### From Mr Denis Hills

Sir, Some years ago, while visiting derelict Byzantine and Armenian churches in Turkey, I found several of them stacked high with unused carboys of powdered milk donated by the Americans as relief aid.

When I asked why the food had not been distributed the Turks told me: "Turkish mothers don't want it. They don't think powdered milk is proper food." The aid was wasted.

In 1980 relief workers hurried to northern Uganda from the West to save starving Karamojong tribesmen from a famine that had filled TV screens with horrifying pictures of people dying by the wayside. Yet their neighbours, the Acholi, were not at all happy about these life-saving efforts by charitable foreigners. For them, the Karamojongs were enemies who, for years, had been burning their huts and stealing their cattle.

"Why help these naked savages and cattle thieves?" they asked me.

### Elections in Nicaragua

From Dr V Bulmer-Thomas

Sir, The recent elections in Nicaragua (the first serious electoral contest in that country since 1932) require very careful interpretation, a task that was only partially fulfilled by your thoughtful editorial on November 3.

The elections have been denounced as a sham by the Reagan Administration. Yet, unlike the Panamanian elections in May, the Nicaraguan contest was not marred by fraud and, unlike the elections in El Salvador in March and Guatemala in July, no wing of the political spectrum was completely unrepresented. On the other hand, the advantages of the incumbent (the Sandinistas) were particularly strong owing to their control over the state apparatus which has been fashioned in their own image.

This control made the elections something less than the free and fair contest one can observe in Costa Rica, for example, every four years. Yet there is still much in the results from which one can draw encouragement.

First, the high participation rate (over 80 per cent) means that Nicaragua can be added to the list of countries in Central America where the overwhelming majority of people wish to resolve their problems peacefully through the ballot box.

Secondly, the margin of the Sandinistas' victory is such that the regime cannot be dismissed as strongly unpopular. The burden of proof to the contrary must now lie with those (Nicaraguans and others) who wish to overthrow the Sandinistas by force.

### Not a 'failed hybrid'

From the Director of the South Bank Polytechnic

Sir, Your correspondent David Walker, in his profile of Sir Henry Chilver (November 8), dismissively refers to the polytechnics as failed hybrids. Why does your newspaper give credence to this nonsense?

South Bank Polytechnic is the largest technological institution in the UK in terms of numbers of students doing engineering and technology. The Government, even at a time of serious cuts in education, has awarded South Bank 11 new posts in information technology. We were also one of the few British institutions to obtain substantial funds from the European ESPRI programme.

The Prudential, in a joint venture with us, are building 10,000 sq ft of hi-tech business units linked to our site at the Elephant and Castle in London. This "Technopark" opens early in the new year.

### "Let them perish!" Here aid had been resented because of tribal hostility.

Africans are realistic about suffering and can be callous (in time of famine the younger Ik, who live on the Sudan border, would leave the old people and children to starve while they went off hunting to fill their own stomachs). Governments argue that when there are too many people nature redresses the balance and they will simply die: a new generation will quickly replace them. Who then can be trusted to put food into a starving child's mouth?

The native official, the soldier and black marketer will want to seize their own share of the "loot" first.

My own first choice in handling relief supplies would be missionaries. The experienced Verona Fathers have already proved their devotion as relief workers in Uganda. It is people like this who should be called on in emergencies such as Ethiopia is now suffering.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS HILLS,  
The Mullions,  
Snitterfield,  
Nr Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire,  
November 11.

### From Mr Anthony Simpson, MEP for Northamptonshire (Conservative)

Sir, In response to the famine in Ethiopia both press and public have called for the EEC "grain mountain" to be sent there without delay. In fact the EEC has already sent 80,000 tonnes this year with a further 230,000 tonnes to follow. It is now purchasing locally produced grain to speed up delivery times.

A little-known fact is that the "grain mountain" is not the property of the EEC. It is the property of the individual member states, purchased with their money on their behalf by their national intervention agencies. The EEC refunds the purchase price to the member state only when the grain is sold or disposed of.

At present the EEC is short of funds; indeed an extra £1bn has recently been approved to fund its 1984 deficit. Could not the United Kingdom Government set an example to its Community partners by releasing a substantial amount of its grain from intervention and foregoing the refund from the Community?

This would provide both speedy and effective relief.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SIMPSON,  
Bassets,  
Great Glen,  
Leicestershire,  
November 12.

### From Mr W. H. L. Gordon

Sir, Sir Arthur Davies's Chinese proverb (November 7) could go one deeper. Teach a man to grow or rear fish and he can feed himself, his family and community.

It is happening in the Third World, though not enough, and in Britain, in natural and dam waters.

Yours truly,  
W. H. L. GORDON,  
Shenstone House,  
Chalfont St Giles,  
Buckinghamshire,  
November 7.

Thurdly, the performance of the centre-right anti-Sandinista parties (over 20 per cent of the popular vote) was, under the circumstances, highly creditable. Despite the current fashion for "dialogue" in Nicaragua and elsewhere, there can be no substitute for the institutionalisation of the legal opposition through congressional representation.

The Sandinistas may not be disposed to interpret the elections in this way. They may feel that the abstention by certain parties (under pressure from the US Administration and elsewhere) gives them the right to reverse the current *apertura* and move towards a one-party state.

Such an interpretation would be a matter for regret. Since 1981 the US Administration has put intense pressure on the Nicaragua regime, as a result of which the Sandinistas have modified a number of their policies. It would be far healthier for Nicaragua, and the world as a whole, if these changes were achieved through pressure by the internal opposition.

If the election results increase the opposition's ability to exercise such influence (as is surely the case), then the process will have been proved worth while and those who counselled abstention or who denounced the elections months in advance will have been guilty of a grave misjudgment.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS,  
Queen Mary College,  
Department of Economics,  
Mile End Road, E1,  
November 6.

### I could go on with many more examples; is this a picture of a 'failed hybrid'?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BEISHON, Director,  
Polytechnic of the South Bank,  
Borough Road, SE1,  
November 9.

### Slow on the uptake

From Mrs Penelope Sherwood

Sir, Re British Telecom, Mr M. W. Reid (November 7) has got a wrong number. Those members of the public who are buying British Telecom shares are paying those members of the public who are not buying any shares for their share.

Yours faithfully,  
PENLOPE SHERWOOD,  
Arundel Lodge,  
271 Swakeleys Road,  
Ickenham,  
Uxbridge,  
Middlesex,  
November 7.

## Safeguarding the house and home

From the Reverend R. G. N. Plant

Sir, I had always assumed that law and order and justice were part and parcel of the same concept. I have recently been proved sadly wrong.

Last week a group of squatters calling themselves "The Convoy" waited until one of my parishioners was out shopping and then proceeded to take over his house. They did not use any violence and said that they would allow him to share occupancy of the house with them!

Despite the persuasion of the police, local residents and myself, the intruders refused to move.

Clearly a lack of justice.

The problem was compounded by the fact that my parishioner was an Asian and the other members of his family, quite rightly incensed, were ready to bring in many of their compatriots and sort out the matter by forcibly evicting the squatters.

A great deal of tact and diplomacy on the part of the police, local residents and myself prevented this, but throughout the period there was the very real and probable risk of violence and bloodshed.

Almost a lack of order.

It was only through the efficiency and single-mindedness of a Leeds solicitor, plus a good deal of badgering on the part of many of us, plus the abridgement of court hearings, that the matter was heard in court very speedily, and after three and a half days my parishioner had his house back again.

Surely, where there is such a clear action on the part of squatters, some thought must be given to it being a criminal offence and the police being allowed to apply for a magistrate's warrant to evict the intruders as speedily as possible.

Failure to do this can only lead to increasing damage in community relations and a very real suspicion and fear in inner-city areas such as this.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. N. PLANT,  
Armsley Vicarage,  
Wesley Road,  
Leeds,  
November 7.

## VAT on publications

From Mrs Barbara Castle, MEP for Greater Manchester West (Labour)

Sir, Mr Owen has struck a brave attitude over the proposed imposition of VAT on newspapers. "I will oppose it with all the strength of my position," he is reported in your paper (November 8) as having said.

But how did he use the strength of his position as leader of the Alliance in the Euro elections last June? His party led the campaign for economic and monetary union.

Although he is personally cooler than many of his colleagues, particularly the Liberals, on European Union, it remains the case that tax harmonisation, including the removal of zero VAT rating, is part of the steady pressure for greater European integration and of the campaign to remove all barriers to trade, in both of which he believes.

Can we have a clear statement from the Alliance that they are against VAT on food and all other essentials as well as newspapers and books? No fudge or mudge, please!

Yours, etc,  
BARBARA CASTLE,  
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
November 9.

## From Mr P. J. Allery

Sir, May I suggest that the only people morally entitled to protest about the imposition of VAT on EEC supporters, on the other hand, having willed the end must accept the logic of intending the means, i.e. coming in line with the rest of the Community as regards tax on knowledge.

Yours truly,  
P. J. ALLERY,  
55 Crystal Palace Road, SE22,  
November 10.

## Fair exchange

From Mr Peter Dingley

Sir, With respect, Mr Duncan, of American Express (November 9) has missed the point. Americans coming to this country will find that dollar, as well as sterling travellers' cheques are accepted by all banks, most hotels, and many shops, including my own.

Why doesn't it work the other way round?

Yours truly,  
PETER DINGLEY,  
Peter Dingley Gallery,  
8 Chapel Street,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire,  
November 9.







THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Chancellor still talking down interest rates

A cut in base rates to help the British Telecom share sale along is still on the cards, assisted by some talking-down of rates by the Chancellor yesterday.

In answer to a parliamentary question, Mr Nigel Lawson said that "despite the miners' strike," and events in the US: "The level of interest rates in this country is no higher than it was at the last election, and indeed is set to go lower."

The money markets, becalmed in the past couple of days by US deficit worries, woke up. The three-month interbank rate fell fractionally down to 9.91%.

But so far this week, the Bank of England has refused to endorse a move to lower base rates. Today, a shortage of around £1 billion is expected in the money market, and optimistic dealers expect a cut in the Bank's dealing rates, to be followed by a half point off base rates, now 10 per cent, early next week.

On the day that the Governor of the Bank of England left for a week's visit to Russia, not too many secrets were being given away in the full money and banking figures for October.

Sterling M3 rose 0.3 per cent during the month, making an annualized increase of 9.3 per cent during the present target period. The corresponding figures for narrow money, M0, were 0.8 per cent and 6.1 per cent.

The bank lending figure of £2,130m remains something of an enigma. The figures only confirm earlier suspicions that very little of it was due to round-tripping. Net gilt sales during banking October totalled £830m and national savings £220m.

A better clue to the case for lower interest rates may be provided by yesterday's statistics on the real economy. Capital expenditure in the third quarter, £4,345m at 1980 prices, was virtually unchanged on the second quarter and has been flat through 1984. Stocks were also little changed.

The stockbroker Wood, Mackenzie has put these figures together with the date on consumer spending, exports and imports and come up with a "flash" estimate of third quarter expenditure gross domestic product. This, it argues, is up just 0.4 per cent on the previous quarter and only 1 per cent on a year earlier. Official gdp figures, based on the output measure, are due out on Monday and are expected to show no change in the third quarter.

If the Treasury's new growth forecasts are to be achieved, rates may have to be talked down rather louder.

## Note of caution on City revolution

When the structure of City institutions is changing as rapidly as the framework in which they operate, the consequences of change are hard to predict. But as more parts of the jigsaw fall into place, it becomes increasingly apparent that changes now afoot will lead to a very different cultural environment.

This will be evident particularly in the degree and scale of risk which institutions will find themselves assuming and also in the changing nature of their relationships with other City institutions. The government securities market of the future will be a prime example of this.

Yesterday, Mr Gordon Pepper, of W. Greenwell delivered a paper to the Society of Investment Analysts giving virtually the first considered City reaction to the Bank of England's recent proposals. Mr Pepper has a number of reservations which boil down to two central themes.

First, he foresees a system bristling with potential conflicts of interest and has raised a number of important issues which need to be debated. Second, he questions the Bank of England's half-way house proposals on the relationship between gilt-edged market makers and discount brokers, an issue closely tied up with the future role of the Stock Exchange in the gilt market.

The Bank proposes allowing common parentage and elements of common management for discount houses and primary market-makers in the same group. But it wants them to be separately capitalized. Mr Pepper maintains that the present separation between the bill market and bond market is thoroughly artificial and preserving it would be wasteful of capital. He also shares the view that the present proposals unduly favour the discount market, and argues that one of the main reasons why the Bank will not allow the two roles to merge is because discount houses have no wish to come under the authority of the Stock Exchange, as it is proposed all primary market makers should.

Mr Pepper, whose views have changed since last May, no longer feels that the Stock Exchange need have much to do with the primary gilt market and concludes: "The industrial logic of merging the market in bills and bonds should be given priority over the gilt-edged market remaining within the Stock Exchange."

As for potential conflicts of interest, he sees these arising in a number of areas. One is where a financial group includes discretionary fund management and gilt-edged market-making, giving rise to the possibility of losses being transferred or profits diverted to the disadvantage of a client. There are strict rules about this in the US which in practice virtually rule out such in-house transactions and Mr Pepper says there is a strong case for keeping these two types of business separate.

Within the framework of the gilt market itself, there are numerous conflicts which could arise where either Stock Exchange Money Brokers or inter-dealer brokers have links with primary market-makers or perhaps broker-dealers. SEMBs and IDBs will both have access to highly sensitive confidential information about market-makers and their positions and Mr Pepper would like them to stay quite independent of the gilt edged market-makers.

However, there are already signs that some want to be involved in both. Security Pacific wants to have a half share in an IDB with Tullett & Tokyo and also own a primary market-maker and Mercantile House is known to have similar ideas.

Other money brokers such as Exco International and Charles Fulton, which is holding discussions on a possible association with the US IDB Cantor Fitzgerald, also have aspirations to be IDBs but have no wish to become involved as market-makers.

The Bank of England, meanwhile, is taking a relaxed "let the market decide" attitude to these kinds of potential conflicts. IDBs and SEMBs will have to convince the Bank that there is a broadly based demand for their services in the market before they receive the stamp of approval. So, if market-makers are worried about doing business with an IDB which is associated with another market-maker, there probably will not be a demonstrable demand for its services.

# Oil profits soar as minister predicts rush for licences

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The importance of the British oil industry to the economy was underlined by the announcement yesterday of increased profits from two leading oil companies, a report of record drilling activity and the announcement by the Government that the forthcoming round of new licences in the North Sea is likely to be oversubscribed.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, who had expected to place up to 80 new offshore exploration licences with the oil companies, said last night in Aberdeen that the ninth licensing round, for which applications close on December 17, will be a success.

He said: "This confirms the international oil industry's long-term commitment to the UK. Although we will not know the complete picture until after the closing date, I am optimistic

that the action we took to attract the companies to open up the deep water and frontier areas will pay off.

"The signs are that the ninth round will be a success. But our offshore industry cannot afford to sit back and wait for the orders to come in."

BP yesterday reported a replacement cost profit increase for the first nine months of this year of £943 million, up 30 per cent compared with the same period last year. Earnings in the third quarter of this year rose to £313 million compared with £239 million in the same period in 1983. Profits on oil exploration and production were little changed at £332 million compared with £328 million in the second quarter. The fall in the dollar oil price was cancelled by the rise in the value of the dollar against sterling.

BP Oil, the sector of the company which refines and sells petrol and operates the company's tanker fleet, reversed previous results to record a £10 million profit. The chemical sector continued to improve. A loss of £66 million in the first nine months of last year has been converted to a profit of £60 million this year. The company's US subsidiary, Sohio, contributed profits of £202 million.

Ultramar, one of Britain's leading independent oil companies, yesterday reported that its profits in the first nine months of this year rose to a record £186 million from £113.9 million in the same period last year. Turnover went up from £1,332.5 million to £2,330.8 million.

Unlike most other oil companies, however, Ultramar has not entirely benefited from the fall in sterling against the dollar adding to profits from oil priced in dollars. The strong dollar has resulted in a far greater fall in world natural gas prices than recent oil price cuts.

With Ultramar's gas production from Indonesia playing an important role in the company's fortunes this has had a significant effect of profits.

Of the profits announced by Ultramar, 50 per cent came from Indonesia, 35 per cent from the North Sea and the remainder from its refining, marketing and shipping operations in Canada, the US and Britain.

The independent energy adviser Gaffney Cline and Associates yesterday reported that oil drilling in the seas around Britain has reached record levels. The success rate is dropping, with one in seven holes drilled showing oil or gas, but this ratio still compares favourably with other areas.



Sir Hugh Fraser holding reduced

## Fraser hunt for share ownership

By Philip Robinson

The true ownership of more than 46 million shares in the House of Fraser - almost a third of the company - is now being sought by the store group's directors.

The shares are believed to be owned by Alford Investment and Trust Company which paid £138m almost 10 days ago for the stake held by Lomro. However the shares are registered under NC Lombard Nominees Ltd at an address in Lombard Street.

Fraser is now writing to all nominee holders using its rights under Section 74 of the Companies Act which allows it to freeze and disenfranchise any stakes where the beneficial owner refuses to declare itself. A freeze has already been placed on 1.2 million shares.

Significant share movements are shown by the Fraser share register around the time the NC Lombard Nominees Stake registered its holding.

Stakes of another nominee company, NC Head Office, which represents the holdings of the Fraser family trusts, went down by 1.4 million shares. Sir Hugh Fraser himself is shown to have reduced his holding between September 26 and November 5 by 525,000 shares to 175,920.

Meanwhile, the Office of Fair Trading is considering whether the purchase by Alford Investment and Trust should be recommended for investigation by the Monopolies Commission. The Commission is already considering whether the sale by Lomro of its near 30 per cent stake means an end to the inquiry.

## Iliffe family buys rest of BPM

By Alison Eadie

BPM Holdings, the publishing, retail and packaging group which owns the Birmingham Post and Mail and London and Westminster Newspapers, has accepted a £26.7m bid from Yattendon Holdings, a subsidiary of the private company Yattendon Investment Trust.

Yattendon is owned by Iliffe family trusts. The Iliffe family already has control of BPM, and has done since 1944, through its ownership of 97 per cent of the ordinary shares, 52 per cent of the "A" ordinary shares and 56 per cent of the "B" ordinary shares. This amounts to 81 per cent of the voting capital.

Mr Robert Iliffe, chairman of BPM and a director of Yattendon, withdrew from BPM's board's deliberations after the offer was made, advised by Hill Samuel, the merchant bank.

The offer is 670p cash for each ordinary share, 167.5p cash for each "A" share and 162.5p cash for each "B" share. The offer represents a 31 per cent increase on the price of the "A" shares, standing at 128p before news of the offer.

The board of BPM will declare an unchanged interim dividend of 7.5p net per ordinary share and 1.875p per "A" share and "B" share for the half-year to the end of December.

Yattendon is also in the newspaper business owning evening newspapers in Cambridge and Coventry. The BPM newspapers will continue to be run independently, according to Mr G. Battman, BPM's finance director.

BPM, which has had a stock market quote since 1947, will now go back to being a private company.

## Guinness goes for health

Arthur Guinness, the brewing to retailing group, is expected to announce today the £3 million acquisition of Champneys, claimed to be Europe's premier name in Spa health resorts.

Champneys is located on two sites. Its head office is set in 170 acres of Hertfordshire woodland in Tring. Its other resort is Stobo Castle, south of Edinburgh. Champneys is being sold by BAT Industries.

The move by Guinness into the health and fitness market represents a significant development away from traditional business since Mr Ernest Saunders, chief executive, rescued the debt-laden brewery group

## New site for commodity exchange

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

The London Commodity Exchange is about to sign the lease on its new home in St Katharine's Dock on the eastern edge of the City. The LCE and its member markets, including cocoa, coffee, sugar, oil, rubber and wool, will move to the 200,000 sq ft building in 1987.

The building was developed by Taylor Woodrow whose subsidiary, St Katharine-by-the-Tower, is responsible for the regeneration of the dock. It is believed that the LCE will occupy about half the building and will sublet the rest until it needs to expand.

Neither side would reveal what rent is being paid, but judging by levels achieved on the neighbouring development in St Katharine's International House, it could be between £15 and £20 a sq ft.

The LCE and its members will move early in 1987 when the leases on existing space fall in.

The need to have large market floors is of primary importance to the LCE and the new Commodity Exchange will be built with this in mind. The LCE will invest in a multi-million pound telecommunication system in the new building.

## Index falls 12 points

Despite a relatively firm showing in gilts which saw shorts ahead by 1/2 point, equities retreated yesterday, ignoring a forecast by the Chancellor that interest rates were about to fall. Share prices, as measured by the FT 30-Share Index, dropped by 12.1 to 911.6. Dealers attributed the fall to nervous selling ahead of the Telecom flotation. Sterling slipped 5 points against the dollar to 1.2615.

Market report, page 20

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1164.9 down 12.1  
High: 1179.5; low: 1164.7  
FT Index: 911.6 down 12.1  
FT Gilts: 83.20 down 0.08  
FT All Share: 552.11 down 5.99  
Bargains: 21,857  
Debtstream USM Leaders  
Index: 105.49 down 0.04  
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1207.15 up 0.22  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 11,301.62 down 19.28  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 1074.84 down 3.09

## CURRENCIES

Sterling LONDON CLOSE  
Index 76.5 unchanged (range 76.6-76.4)  
\$1.2615 down 5pts  
DM 3.7450 down 0.0050  
FFr 11.4750 down 0.03  
Yen 306.00 up 0.25  
Dollar Index 139.1 up 0.3  
DM 2.9605 down 0.0065  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.2625  
Dollar DM 2.9612  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU £0.59344  
SDR £0.795160

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 10  
Finance houses base rate 1.1  
Discount market loans fixed 10 1/4-10  
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 9 1/4-9 1/2  
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2  
3 month Fr 11 1/2-11  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 11.75  
Fed funds 8 1/4  
Treasury long bond 100 1/4-100 1/2  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$345.35 pm \$343.75  
close \$343.75-344.25 (£272.50-273)  
New York (latest): \$344.25  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$354-355.50 (£280.75-281.75)  
Sovereigns (new): \$81-82 (£64.25-65)  
\*Excludes VAT

# Plessey rings up £68 million profit



Plessey Masterline: The largest selling key system in the UK.

- Sales £619 million
- Pre-tax profit £80 million
- Earnings per share 6.63p
- Order book at £1.5 billion

1984-1985 half year results			
An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results.			
	26 weeks ended 28 Sept. 1984	26 weeks ended 30 Sept. 1983	52 weeks ended 30 March 1984
	£m	£m	£m
Sales	619.2	589.5	1,218.9
Operating profit	68.2	66.0	146.3
Profit before taxation	80.7	80.9	176.1
Earnings per share	6.63p	6.90p	15.25p

The Plessey Company plc  
Vicarage Lane, Ilford  
Essex IG1 4AQ.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Moves to save Argos Metals

Argos Metals, the platinum trader placed in the hands of the liquidator earlier this week, had a paid-up capital of only £30,000. But intensive efforts are being made to sell the company and it is expected that the Soviet Union, its biggest client, will continue to trade through it.

Mr Maurice Dorrington, the liquidator from the accountants Popleton & Appleby, is trading a few futures contracts in order to keep the company alive.

● **THIRD QUARTER** results at BP showed a rise in replacement cost profits from £239m to £313m, bringing the nine months figure up to £943m (£723m). Earnings for the nine months on an historical cost basis are 57.6p (33.8p).

Tempus, page 20

● **EARNINGS AT PLESSEY** for the six months to September 28 declined from 6.90p to 6.63p, as pretax profits eased back to £80.7m (£80.9m). Sales rose from £589m to £619m.

Tempus, page 20

● **KWIK SAVE DISCOUNT** GROUP made pretax profits of £31.8 million in the year to August 25, against £27.4 million. The total dividend was increased by 17 per cent to 4.1p.

Tempus, page 20

● **ROYAL INSURANCE** announced a sharp drop in nine month pretax profits from £63m last year to £7.5 million this year. The overall underwriting loss worsened from £163.4 million to £250.8 million.

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## Liffe set to launch options contracts

By Michael Prest

The London International Financial Futures Exchange is expected to throw its weight behind the rapidly expanding options market by announcing soon that it will start trading options based on Liffe futures contracts next year.

In a speech delivered to Japanese and other members of the Liffe in Tokyo yesterday, Mr Michael Jenkins, the exchange's chief executive, said: "One

development during 1985 will be the introduction of option contracts. We have completed a major study of this area and we hope to announce our plans shortly."

Liffe sources in London said last night that currency options, an increasingly popular instrument, were the most attractive but their introduction presented technical problems. Liffe's currency futures contracts have

been disappointing. The alternatives are options on Liffe's long gilt and three-month Eurodollar futures contracts.

Mr Jenkins also offered Liffe's help in setting up a financial futures market in Tokyo. Trading in Japanese bond futures is expected to start next year. Mr Jenkins added: "In the longer term, there is the possibility that Liffe may trade a Japanese bond contract."

## US considers 'teaching' Europe how to run its economies

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration is considering as one of its new foreign policy objectives a programme to teach European governments how to encourage "supply-side" policies to bolster their economies.

Officials monitoring the policy talks at the White House this week said that several proposals designed to ease Europe's economic problems had been presented to the President as "new initiatives" to be adopted.

Administration officials are concerned that high unemployment and "a lack of dynamism" in European economies will translate into political unrest and diminished security unless strong action is taken.

Although they admit that the Administration's proposed remedies are "still pretty primitive," they said the important development likely to result from the meetings was a broad consensus that the US Government must take steps to

improve Europe's economic health for strategic reasons.

However, there is lack of unanimity on how the US Government can do this, particularly among conservative and moderate advisers who disagree philosophically over proposed remedies.

On one side are the "hard line" suppliers who believe that a "US model" of big tax cuts and sharp reductions in social programmes should be held up to European governments as the approach to adopt.

Moderates in the Administration are pressing a less didactic approach centred on government spending reductions and incentive programmes for private industry.

The US Treasury officials stated before this week's meetings their concern that European governments are attempting to correct their unemployment problems with what they consider the wrong sorts of remedies.

A high-level Treasury official said: "To begin, governments are too involved at the expense of the private sector and, second, Europe is looking to high-tech industries to cure the problem despite the fact that our experience shows that service industries create jobs."

In closed door meetings with President Reagan, Administration officials have painted a gloomy picture of European economic growth which they said was hampered by social policies adopted a decade ago resulting in unacceptably high taxes, excessive government regulations and welfare statism.

"We face in Europe a future of economic stagnation, brought on by postwar trends towards greater welfare statism," a White House official said.

He said the focus in Europe should be on incentives for risk taking in order to produce involvement in what he called the "cutting edge industries".



## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Flotation nerves depress shares

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

The Stock market became edgy yesterday, ahead of the massive British Telecom share flotation. Both leading market indicators finished at their lowest level of the day.

The FT 30 share index closed with a 12.1 points fall to 911.1, and the much more broadly based "footsie" index ended at 1,649.9 points, down 16.6.

The swing from euphoria to depression was due to the end of the BT-inspired buying wave rather than to sustained selling. Until the expected BT success is confirmed, many investors are expected to sit on the sidelines. The market expects a 130p price with 50p down and two 40p calls to be announced today. Talk is that the BT shares are likely to command a premium of up to 20p.

Poor half-year figures from Plessey lowered the shares 16p to 212p. Other electricals retreated.

The Chancellor's statement that he expected interest rates to fall soon came too late to offer much heart to the market which was already pondering predictions of higher transatlantic rates.

But Rank Organisation enjoyed its own type of "Telecom" influence with the shares 14p higher at 278p at one stage.

The office equipment to leisure group is busily selling off chunks, aiming to concentrate on the leisure industry. City men reckon the latest sale is Telecom Plus, a North American associate communications company involved in cellular radio in the US. Throgmorton Street talk is that Rank will make a \$50 million (£63 million) profit on the sale of its 30 per cent in Telecom.

Mr Douglas Yates, finance director at Rank, would not comment, but he says: "We are following the policy laid down in the chairman's interim statement". In brief, that policy is "sell, sell, sell" on the non-leisure side.

Market rumours also lifted the shares of United Scientific Holdings, the armoured vehicles and optical equipment

group. The price rose 8p to 226p as speculators chatted about a bid for USH from Vickers. Both sides strongly denied the suggestion, and Mr Peter Levene, chairman and managing director at USH, said: "It just looks like a further recovery in the share price after the recent strong markdown".

Full-year results are due from

Allied-Lyons, the beer to food group, fell 2p to 171p yesterday. Fielding, Newson-Smith, the broker, expects interim profits, due this month, to emerge at £101 million, against £95 million last time. But analysts Mr Neil Scourse and Mr Tom Corran believe their year's projection of £119 million (£194.9 million) may be "a bit on the demanding side".

USH next month, and Mr Levene had lunch with the company brokers, Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee, yesterday, but he said: "We did not talk about USH".

Government stocks had a quiet session, although the Chancellor's statement offered a late fillip with prices returning to overnight levels.

TI Group, strong on Wednesday, had another active day, at one time recording a 10p gain to 236p, as it appeared that some determined buyers lurked. The shares closed at 226p.

P & O, the shipping group, was another FT 30 constituent to buck the downward trend. It closed 3p higher at 302p as some market men took the view that any merger between P & O and Sterling Guarantee Trust would probably be effected by a P & O bid for SGT.

Smiths Industries suffered alongside Plessey, falling 28p to 634p. Smiths this week reported a near 35 per cent rise in full-year profits, but on a static turnover, and analysts are beginning to look askance at prospects there.

Quilter Goodison, the brokers, believe the current market rating for Smiths is too high, because sales in the group's two

main areas of work, aerospace and medical equipment, are not growing strongly enough.

Racal also lost ground, dropping 14p to 268p. The Plessey results, and vague market chat of acquisition activity at Racal, hurt the shares.

PSM International, the West Midlands engineering group, made a sound start, launching 151p from its 140p offer price.

Barham Group, the rapidly expanding services group, returned to market after its latest acquisition, a computerized typesetting business, at 310p before easing to 295p. Suspension price was 305p.

Confusion reigned for a time over shares of Johnson Matthey. At first the shares were marked higher. But then it transpired that they were being traded in their ex-preference rights form. The price was then cut to 113p, down 15p, and determined attempts were made to unscramble earlier deals.

Oils presented a scrappy appearance. British Petroleum closed unchanged at 493p following its third-quarter figures. At one time it slipped to 488p. But Ultramar, also with third-quarter results, failed to

Trafalgar House could be on the verge of selling its 196,000 sq ft office development, Plumtree Court, in London's Shoe Lane. The development, on the site of the building once occupied by the Standard newspaper, is thought to have realized close to its £50 million asking price. Trafalgar shares fell 1p to 110p.

please and its shares retreated 13p to 238p. Shell lost 8p to 645p. Avon Petroleum came in for speculative attention, gaining 7p to 55p.

Lex Service Group had another poor day after its broker's lunch this week. The shares fell another 3p to 303p. Profit forecasts are now being downgraded - from about £54m to £49m.

Nova, the Danish insulin group, gained 7p to £19.75

after an analysts' meeting in New York.

Despite the price rise, the seminar appears to have left some analysts uneasy about the company's internal forecasting system.

Hambros Life Assurance closed 3p higher at 443p after yesterday's excitement. Chatterhouse J. Rothchild, which has nearly 25 per cent of HLA and is rumoured to want to sell its shareholding, fell 2p to 88p.

Lasso was unchanged at 358p. The market is becoming more and more enticed by the company's exploration prospects. More than 260 wells may be drilled next year.

Staveley Industries fell 12p to 280p after its disappointing interim statement. But M. J. Gleeson, the civil engineering and building group, rose 12p to 205p after its 39 per cent profit advance.

LWT Holdings gained 7p to 275p on its 96 per cent profits gain.

Octopus Publishing continued to score from the realization of the advantages which should flow from its £21 million takeover of Websters Group. The Octopus shares gained a further 35p to 840p.

Marks and Spencer fell 6p to 119p following a cautious brokers' circular.

The Common Brothers shipping group sank 23p to 90p on its operating losses and Reddon Smith "A" lost 2 1/2p to only 4p in sympathy.

The helicopter makers Westland Aircraft dipped 7p to 129p as market men heard criticism in the trade press of the group's interests in California. Mr Hugh Stewart, finance director at Westland, denied talk of a more than \$20 million bid for taking on the business of Airspur at Los Angeles.

Westland has turned Airspur into a leasing company, and will be placing its W30 civil helicopters through it. This arrangement allows Westland effectively to own a California carrier without upsetting American sensibilities about foreign ownership of airlines.

Johnson Group Cleaners gained 4p to 448p after the takeover bid from Nottingham Manufacturing was given the government all clear. Two previous bids for Johnson have lapsed when they were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Wade Potteries continued to show the benefits of its 53 per cent jump in profits, announced on Wednesday. The shares gained another 7p to 96p.

On the investment trust pitches, Anglo Scottish IT announced an agreed bid from Japan Assets Trust. JAT is paying roughly 167.40p for each Anglo share, with a mixture of cash, shares, warrants and loan stock. The market price of Anglo dipped 1p to 157p following the news, and JAT saw its price slip 3p to 58p.

The British and French Channel Tunnel cash pledge had the predictable influence on that "old" company - the Channel Tunnel Co. Its shares jumped 30p to 150p.

Buyers of Monument Oil & Gas returned to the sidelines yesterday, leaving the shares 3p lower at 27p. Monument, the US-listed oil interests of Minister Assets, has to be brought for cash until the shares are registered in mid-January. The need to pay real money seems to have put some investors off, and at the same time a few sellers are in evidence. Nevertheless, market men are waiting for the next move from Mr Paul Bristol, whose Bristol Oil & Minerals now holds 14.6 per cent of Monument, having coughed up cash for extra shares when dealings first began in Monument on Monday.

The appearance of G. M. Firth at East Lancashire Paper, fighting off a bid from British Syphon, continued to influence the shares. East Lancs rose 2p to 95p as Firth, headed by a former Slater Walker man, Mr Ian Wasserman, lifted his shareholding to 9.2 per cent.

Johnson Group Cleaners gained 4p to 448p after the takeover bid from Nottingham Manufacturing was given the government all clear. Two previous bids for Johnson have lapsed when they were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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LEP GROUP: Six months to June 30. Interim div 1.25p (0.6p). The final div will be dependent on the results for the year as a whole. Figs in £000. Turnover 42,840 (£7,962). Pretax profit 3,110 (£64). The board reports that benefits of the extensive reorganization in 1983 and the general improvement in world trade are now being reflected in results. This improvement in performance is spread throughout the group.

## TEMPUS

## Plessey wakes up to a changing world

Plessey's interim results look disappointing, but arguably the market should look through the raw statistics and concentrate on the accompanying statement. It amounts to a mood piece: whether Plessey in the late eighties?

The increasing volatility of markets looks to be the dominant theme of Sir John Clark's comments as chairman. Hence total exports dropped by more than a fifth, and sales by overseas companies were down by nearly 5 per cent.

More significantly, the home market also sounds fairly difficult. The chairman aims a couple of sideways at the Chancellor's new fiscal regime. Phasing out capital allowances apparently destroyed the cable TV market overnight, losing Plessey £600,000 as it withdrew.

Relations with British Telecom, which charges Plessey with perhaps a third of its business are also changing quite rapidly. On one hand, BT's impending flotation has led its management to adopt a far more conventional approach to the profit and loss statement. On the other, Plessey is now tooling up very rapidly, in working capital terms, to begin delivering its share of 1.7 million new System X lines by the year-end.

It seems reasonable to assume that returns from Plessey's involvement with BT will be less attractive than before. Hence, perhaps, the considerable prominence in the chairman's statement of the American market.

The timing of the BT flotation and Plessey's sudden realization that the British market is far too small to accommodate its growth plans may be coincidental. But the group hopes to become a big player in the biggest game in town, presumably reducing in the process its historic dependence on a major customer.

The market is sceptical. Plessey shares fell 10p to 218p on the results yesterday, continuing the marked underperformance of the last year. Perhaps Plessey is just too late to try to go it alone.

## BP

BP's share price perked up a little yesterday on the back of its third-quarter figures, closing

unchanged at 493p. This looks to be an ungenerous reaction to figures with a fair measure of attractive features.

Replacement cost profits, at £313 million, were £74 million up on the comparable 1983 period. BP Exploration's earnings were significantly higher, with the stronger dollar more than outweighing weaker crude prices.

Downstream, the European market was weak, as prices in local currencies rose, while demand was fairly static. But profits were £10 million, compared with market forecasts of just breakeven.

Chemicals, however, produced £9 million profits in the traditionally weak third-quarter, rather worse than seasonally warranted.

Sohio was hit by lower margins on oil products plus tariff pressures on its pipeline business, and an unchanged sterling outturn conceals a 17 per cent profit fall in dollar terms.

Analysts say the tax charge looks unnaturally low, but conversely BP is busy building its own cash mountain. In the last nine months cash balances have risen by £700 million.

## Kwik Save

## Discount Group

Kwik Save's 16 per cent pretax profit rise to £31.8 million was in line with expectations. Trading margins, after stripping out concession and other rental income, were unchanged at 3.7 per cent, indicating that it is not easy to squeeze more out of Kwik Save's limited range discount formula.

The 15 per cent sales rise contained volume gains of 7 to 7.5 per cent in Kwik Save stores less than two years old and 1.5 per cent gains in older stores. The new wines and spirits outlets contributed 1.4 per cent to the sales rise and the five new freezer centres 0.2 per cent.

Wines and spirits are selling well, but were not profitable last year. They are expected to break even this year.

Expansion plans continue and at least 35 more stores are planned this year against 40 last year. There will be no difficulty funding the growth with a cash pile of 22 million at the year-end against £19 million a year before. Capital

spending is estimated at £20 million this year against £16 million last year.

With the increase in space, profits should continue to rise, even if margins remain hard to budge. Trading this year, however, has been flat and is only now beginning to pick up. The cheapness of fresh food, which has helped Tesco to increase its margins, was partly to blame. The miners' strike is also more significant for Kwik Save than for more southerly retailers.

The shares hit a high at 200p in March and have drifted back since, losing 4p yesterday to 170p. The prospective price-earnings ratio, assuming a somewhat ambitious £36 million is achieved, is just under 13 on 45 per cent tax. Cheap by sector standards, but the outlook is mixed.

## Royal Insurance

Royal Insurance, the third composite insurer to announce this quarter results this week, has revealed pretax profits over the period plunging from £63 million last year to £7.5 million. The figure is appalling, yet in present insurance market conditions, much in line with expectations.

Although the US pretax losses almost doubled to £63 million compared with £33.4 million last year, this was rated by the market as a tolerable performance. The British result, with profits rising from £4.9 million to £9.7 million over the last three months, despite an overall nine-month fall, was better than expected.

The apparently severe fall in Canadian profits over the nine months to a loss of £9.1 million compared a £14.9 million profit last year, includes a £12 million addition to claims reserves forced on the company by changes in Canadian law.

Like Commercial Union, Royal regards an improvement in its US performance as an "overriding priority". The company is cutting staff and agents, and is refining its book of business.

It already claims success in raising premium costs worldwide without significant loss of business. Benefits will not show through until late next year, but with its shares at around 500p Royal looks on course for a healthy prospective yield of about 7.5 per cent.

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On acceptance, your policy will be posted to you along with a bank Direct Debit form, which is needed for your future monthly payments. You then have 15 days to examine your policy. If you are in any way dissatisfied, simply return your policy to GRE. It will be cancelled without question and any payment will be refunded immediately. That's the Guardian money-back guarantee.

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The questions must be answered fully and to the best of your knowledge and belief. If you are not sure, please leave a space at the end of each question which you should sign and date. Please be as specific as possible to save us having to refer back to you.

In answering questions (a) and (b) you can ignore common colds, influenza, minor injuries, negative mass X-ray, uncomplicated pregnancy and childhood ailments (except Rheumatic Fever).

Please answer these questions truthfully. YES NO

(a) Have you within the last five years had or involving any medical or surgical investigation or treatment for any disease or serious injury? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(b) Are you taking any medicine or drug or are you under any form of medical supervision, care, treatment or special diet? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(c) Do you participate in any sport or pastime which is considered to be dangerous, such as competitive motor sports, mountaineering, aviation (other than as a fare-paying passenger) or underwater activities? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(d) Have you smoked any cigarettes within the last 12 months? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(e) Have you any intention of smoking cigarettes in the future? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(f) What are your height and weight?  ft  in  lb

Guardian reserves the right to call for a medical examination at its expense.

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I enclose a cheque payable to Guardian Assurance plc for my first monthly payment, as indicated above.

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms)   
Full forenames   
Address   
Postcode

Date of birth

Occupation

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, and to the best of my belief, the information given above is true and correct, and I agree to pay the premium as indicated above, and I agree to provide the information requested in the contract between me and Guardian Assurance plc, I consent to Guardian seeking medical information from any doctor who at any time has attended me concerning anything which affects my physical or mental health or medical information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorize the giving of such information.

Signature  Date

Please send a second application form for my spouse ☐

My Broker's/Agent's name is (if applicable)

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36-40	30	35	\$44,227	\$70,589	\$96,351	\$122,413
41-45	30	35	\$39,104	\$63,730	\$87,046	\$110,362
46-50	30	35	\$34,048	\$57,476	\$78,504	\$99,532
51-55	30	35	\$29,173	\$51,480	\$70,589	\$89,698
56-60	30	35	\$24,433	\$46,415	\$63,296	\$80,377
61-65	30	35	\$20,000	\$41,254	\$56,756	\$71,569
66-70	30	35	\$15,848	\$37,272	\$50,908	\$64,545
71-75	30	35	\$12,138	\$33,533	\$46,528	\$57,723
76-80	30	35	\$10,000	\$29,792	\$40,577	\$51,573
81-85	30	35	\$16,883	\$26,623	\$36,363	\$46,103
86-90	30	35	\$15,057	\$23,745	\$32,432	\$41,119
91-95	30	35	\$13,448	\$21,208	\$28,965	\$36,724
96-100	30	35	\$12,016	\$18,852	\$25,865	\$32,819
101-105	30	35	\$10,729	\$16,519	\$23,108	\$29,238
106-110	30	35	\$9,605	\$15,147	\$20,689	\$26,231
111-115	30	35	\$8,665	\$13,666	\$18,666	\$23,666
116-120	30	35	\$7,831	\$12,349	\$16,867	\$21,385
121-125	30	35	\$7,058	\$11,131	\$15,203	\$19,276
126-130	30	35	\$6,341	\$10,000	\$13,659	\$17,517
131-135	30	35	\$5,689	\$8,971	\$12,253	\$15,536
136-140	30	35	\$5,104	\$8,044	\$11,064	\$14,064
141-145	30	35	\$4,540	\$7,198	\$9,778	\$12,398
146-150	30	35	\$4,045	\$6,379	\$8,713	\$11,047
151-155	30	35	\$3,609	\$5,691	\$7,774	\$9,855

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من الاموال



## Miller is re-elected Lloyd's chairman

Lloyd's of London: Mr Peter Miller has been elected chairman of Lloyd's insurance market for another year from January 1. Mr Murray Lawrence was elected senior deputy chairman and Mr David Colebridge deputy junior chairman for the same period.

Myton: Mr D. M. Rogers has become chairman in addition to managing director. He will succeed Mr Barton Higgs who is retiring. Mr W. G. E. Mills has been made deputy managing director and Mr E. R. Frondigou, a divisional director of Taylor Woodrow Construction, will join the board of Myton as a non-executive director on January 1.

### APPOINTMENTS

Readicut International: Mr Mark Fielden has joined the board.

Sun Alliance: Mr E. J. Taylor has been appointed general manager, home division; Mr J. G. Fordyce and Mr J. H. Bishop have become assistant general managers in the same division. Mr K. Wilkinson has been made general manager, overseas division and Mr R. Petty, Mr T. A. Hayes and Mr C. C. Huke are assistant general managers in that division. Mr J. C. F. Peters has become group aviation manager and underwriter and Mr D. Town will become group marine manager.

### COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**NATIONAL WESTMINSTER FINANCE (AUST):** No dividend (same) revenue for the year to September 30 (figures in AS 000) - 156,804 (129,133). Pretax profit 12,075 (10,628). Depreciation and amortization 1,361 (807). Personnel costs 14,015 (9,923). Other operating expenses 21,414 (13,258). Allocation to profit share scheme 446 (347). Interest on borrowings 101,083 (84,071) and adjusted to deferred income 1,190 (nil) but including reversal of provision for contingencies in relation to development of estate projects 260 (nil). Tax 3,692 (3,737) leaving 8,383 (6,362). Minorities 304 (176).

**INTERNATIONAL THOMSON ORGANISATION:** International Thomson Organisation Limited (ITOL) has declared a dividend of 8.25 United States cents per ITOL common share (an increase of 13.8 per cent over the dividend paid in July). International Thomson Organisation PLC (ITOPLC) has declared a pound sterling equivalent dividend of 6.25p per ITOPLC common share, both payable on January 15.

**FITZWILTON:** Year to June 30. Final 1p, making 2p (same). Figs in Irish 2000. Turnover 6,585 (5,620). Pretax profit 1,456 (561).

**RENOLD:** Half-year to end-Sept. Figs in millions of pounds. Turnover 58.2 (57.5). Trading profit 3.7 (0.2). Pretax profit 1.4 (loss 2.6).

**T. C. HARRISON:** T. C. Harrison Group, a new company promoted by Messrs Edward Harrison, John Harrison and George Reed, all currently directors of T. C. Harrison who, together with their immediate families, own 37.1 per cent of the shares, will offer to acquire the rest of the capital at 74p cash for each ordinary share.

**ALIED IRISH BANK:** Half-year to Sept 30. Intn. Div. 4.5p (4.5p) on increased capital. Figs in millions of Irish pounds. EPS 17.7p (13.2p). The board reports that results are in line with expectations. The recession in the Republic of Ireland has resulted in the continuation of a high level of bad debts charged against profit and the bank does not foresee any improvement in the second half.

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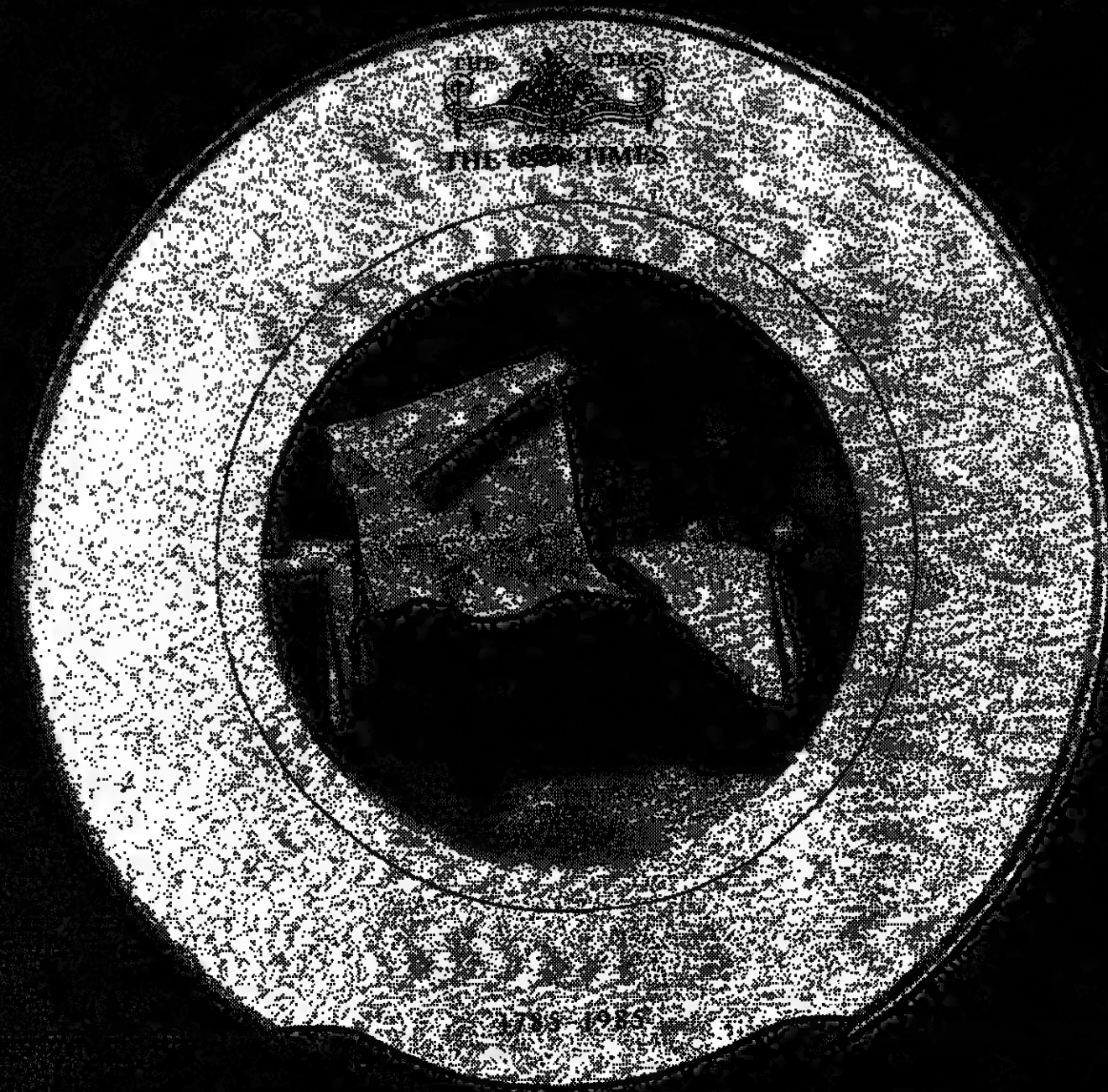
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## Law Report November 16 1984 House of Lords

## Long-term prisoners' challenge to lawfulness of new parole policy fails

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Findlay and Others  
Before Lord Scarman, Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman  
[Speeches held November 15]

The Home Secretary's policy statement in the House of Commons on November 30, 1983, announcing a stricter policy on parole, and the implementation of that policy were not unlawful notwithstanding that the policy was formulated without prior consultation with the Parole Board. The Home Secretary was under a statutory obligation to consult the board to have regard to factors such as retribution, deterrence and public confidence in the administration of criminal justice.

The House of Lords held, dismissing consolidated appeals by four prisoners serving custodial sentences, Edward Findlay, Peter Houghton, Roy Honeyman and Roy Matthews, from a judgment of the majority of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Griffiths, Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson dissenting) on July 6, 1984 (74 Times July 7, 1984) refusing the prisoners' appeals from a technical refusal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Forbes on May 22, 1984 (The Times May 23, 1984) for the application for judicial review of the change of policy.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the prisoners; Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the Home Secretary.

LORD SCARMAN said that the appeals arose in proceedings brought by four convicted prisoners who applied for judicial review of the decision of the Home Secretary to make major policy changes in the administration of the parole system for the release of prisoners on licence which was introduced by sections 59 to 64 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

The case for the appellants was that prior to the policy change each of them legitimately expected that he would be released on licence in the reasonably near future, that their expectations were shattered by the change of policy, that in adopting the new policy the Home Secretary acted unlawfully and that in the circumstances the court should declare that the policy was unlawful in that it contravened the statute.

The application was heard by a Divisional Court of two judges, who disagreed, Lord Justice Parker being in the majority. Lord Justice Forbes being in favour of granting relief. The prisoners chose to treat the result as a dismissal and went at once to the Court of Appeal, who dismissed the appeal by a majority.

On October 11, 1983 the Home Secretary announced at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool that he was introducing far-reaching changes of policy in the exercise of his statutory duty to release on licence persons serving sentences of imprisonment for

certain serious offences. The changes would affect those serving life sentences as well as those serving substantial fixed sentences.

Thus parole for certain classes of prisoners would not be granted save in exceptional circumstances or for compelling reasons until the minimum period specified had been served in prison.

He indicated that he would be making a parliamentary statement and that he would consult the Parole Board on the "practical way of achieving the new policy". But it was plain that he was not consulting the board in the formulation of the new policy.

In the announcement he emphasised that he was responding to the pressure of public opinion and that the public "do want to know with certainty what will actually happen to the most serious offenders, and they want what happens to reflect the gravity of the offences they have committed".

He was attentive to "growing public concern about the gap between the length of sentence passed and the length of the sentence actually served... that gap can endanger public confidence in our criminal justice system. People want to know with some certainty what a sentence that has been passed actually means in practice."

On November 30, 1983, the Home Secretary made the policy statement in Parliament and emphasised that he must take account of the general public concern about the increase in crime and the public criticism of sentences actually served.

The four prisoners were serving sentences for offences within the classes affected by the policy statement. Findlay was serving a sentence of seven years for armed robbery imposed in 1981. Since November 1982 he had been in Long Lartin Prison which was used to accommodate prisoners of known good character and he expected to be released on licence in March 1984 until he heard of the new policy.

Matthews was serving a sentence of nine years for drug trafficking imposed in March 1982 and had been held in Long Lartin since June 1982. He would have become eligible for parole in April 1984. Both Findlay and Matthews had excellent prison records and clearly expected to be granted parole in 1984 or early 1985.

Houghton and Honeyman were serving life terms for murder in the course of an armed robbery and a burglary respectively. Both had been exemplary prisoners and had been moved to open prisons in December 1982 and January 1983 respectively but both were moved back to a closed prison on the day of the Home Secretary's announcement to the conference.

They were two of the four prisoners who applied to the Home Secretary for their release in the relatively near future would not have accorded with my view of the gravity of their offences. Until the announcement of October 11, 1983 each expected that he might be granted parole in the not too distant future.

The shattering impact of the

policy statement upon the four prisoners could surprise no one. Their excellent prison records were greatly to their credit and the prior practice in the administration of parole understandably nourished their hopes of release.

The Home Secretary was, of course, aware of the impact upon some of the new policy. But he made it clear that in cases of violent crime the paramount consideration would be the safety of the public, not the interests of the individual criminal.

The Criminal Justice Act 1967 made radical changes to the existing legislation. Section 59(1) and (3) created the Parole Board and put upon it the duty to advise the Home Secretary with respect to the release on licence and recall of persons whose cases had been referred to the board by the Home Secretary in the exercise of the power of release than others. That recognition of the gravity of certain offences and the classification of prisoners was the release on licence or recall of persons to whom sections 60 or 61 applied.

Section 60(1) provided that the Home Secretary might, if recommended to do so by the Parole Board, release on licence a person serving a sentence of imprisonment, other than imprisonment for life, after he had served not less than one third of his sentence or twelve months thereof, whichever expired the later.

Section 61(1) provided that the Home Secretary might, if recommended to do so by the Parole Board, release on licence a person serving a sentence of life imprisonment or a person detained under section 41 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (young offenders convicted of grave crimes), but should not do so in the case of a person sentenced to life imprisonment unless he was recommended to do so by the Parole Board.

As Lord Justice Parker had said, it could be seen that under the case of determinate sentences nor in the case of life sentences had the Home Secretary any power to release on licence unless recommended to do so by the board, that in the case of life sentences an additional precondition to the exercise of the power was consultation with the Lord Justice and the trial judge, if available.

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The board through its judicial and other members could offer advice on those aspects but it could not be as close or as sensitive to public opinion as a minister responsible to Parliament and the electorate.

He had to judge the public acceptability of early release and to determine the policies needed to maintain public confidence in the system of criminal justice. That was why the "copy" under section 10(5) of the 1972 Act as substituted.

It was contended on behalf of the appellants that failure to consult the board before adopting the new policy was unlawful. But there was no express statutory requirement for such consultation and because of the essential duality of the parole system it was impossible to imply

such a requirement into the statute. The appellants also invoked the principle in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223, submitting that no reasonable Home Secretary could have reasonably omitted to consult the board.

However, the statute neither prohibited the Home Secretary from consulting the board before adopting a policy change in the exercise of his discretionary power to grant parole nor required him to do so.

In deciding to adopt the new policy without consulting the board the Home Secretary took into account the factors of deterrence, retribution and public confidence in the administration of justice, which were plainly material matters. He could not therefore be said to have acted unreasonably in having regard to them. Accordingly the failure to consult the board was not unlawful.

The appellants accepted that a policy could in some circumstances be so unreasonable as to be unlawful. But they submitted that the statutory provisions were such as to require "individual consideration of individual cases in every instance, free of presumptions or policies". The question was simply whether the new policy constituted a refusal to consider the cases of prisoners who had served their sentence or a policy of release on licence. The answer was clearly "no".

Consideration of a case was not excluded by a policy which provided that exceptional circumstances or compelling reasons must be shown because of the weight to be attached to the nature of the offence, the length of the sentence and the factors of deterrence, retribution, public confidence of each individual prisoner. The Home Secretary to consider.

There was nothing wrong in classifying offenders according to the character and gravity of their offences and the length of sentence imposed, provided always that the classification did not preclude consideration of other relevant factors such as prison records, personal or family circumstances and the element of risk for its

Chief Constable of Surrey v Wickens

Where a police officer, having carried out the correct procedure of taking two specimens of breath on the Loox Intoximeter as provided in section 8 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted by section 25 of and Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1968, had signed a certificate incorporated in a statement automatically produced by the device but had served an unsigned copy on the defendant, there was no failure to comply with the requirements of section 10(5) of the 1972 Act as substituted.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan) so held on November 14 following the prosecutor's appeal against the decision of the Guildford Justices on March 6, 1984, who dismissed an information against the defendant

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When the Home Secretary consulted the board on how to achieve the new policy, the board expressed a wish to see all the cases that under the prior practice they would see "in order to give full consideration to the circumstances of each individual prisoner". The Home Secretary agreed on the understanding that the board's

reviews would take account of the new policy.

Granted the separate responsibilities of minister and board, it was good sense in the public interest that the board should know the release policy of the minister when conducting their own review of individual cases.

If the Home Secretary had concealed the existence of his policy from the board, very substantial criticism of his action could have been expected. Since the Home Secretary had the final responsibility for release, the board needed to know his policy if his advice was to be relevant and of value.

The suggestion that such knowledge interfered with the independence of the board was, in the words of Lord Justice Griffiths, "a pretty unlikely scenario". The membership of the board exposed the nonsense of the suggestion that they would yield to pressure in the discharge of their advisory duty; and there was nothing in the policy statement to suggest that the Home Secretary intended to exercise any pressure to prevent them from examining the circumstances of each case individually.

In the cases of Findlay and Matthews, both of whom received determinate sentences, it was not suggested that the statute gave rise to any greater expectation than that their cases would be considered on their becoming eligible for parole. Their cases had been considered and would continue to be considered under the new policy. Unless therefore the policy was unlawful (which it was not) the arguments relating to legitimate expectation availed nothing.

Houghton and Honeyman who were serving life sentences, had good reason under the practice which prevailed before the adoption of the new policy to expect release

much earlier than became likely after its adoption.

The doctrine of legitimate expectation had an important place in the developing law of judicial review. A legitimate expectation could provide a sufficient interest to enable one who could not point to the existence of a substantive right to obtain the leave of the court to apply for judicial review.

Houghton and Honeyman obtained leave but their submission was further. They said that the refusal to except them from the new policy was an unlawful act on the part of the Home Secretary in that his decision had frustrated their expectation. But what was their legitimate expectation? Given the substance and purpose of the legislative provisions governing parole, the most that a convicted prisoner could legitimately expect was that his case would be examined individually in the light of whatever policy the Home Secretary saw fit to adopt, provided always that the advisory policy was a lawful exercise of the discretion conferred upon him by the statute.

Any other view would entail the conclusion that the unfettered discretion conferred by the statute upon the minister could in some cases be restricted so as to hamper, or even prevent changes of policy.

Bearing in mind the complexity of the issues which the Home Secretary had to consider and the importance of the public interest in the administration of parole, it could not be thought that Parliament intended a discretion to be restricted in that way.

Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; B. M. Birnberg & Co.

## Copy need not be signed

Chief Constable of Surrey v Wickens

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## PENMANSHIP



First steps in the art of writing: children are shown the importance of posture, a good writing surface, light, the position of the paper, and a good grip

## Writing is just what the doctor ordered

Continued from page 27

international membership including school teachers, graphic artists, academic institutions, companies, rank amateurs and people in prison. There are no membership qualifications.

"People find it can be an enrichment to write properly. It is simple, you don't need any intellectual skills or expensive equipment and people with no particular pretensions can get great pleasure from it. Children living in depressed areas, for example, seem to do well at italic handwriting."

Why there has been a resurgence in this country in interest in penmanship is difficult to establish. Ms Cavenish believes that part of the answer is a backlash against the increasingly impersonal age of the video screen, pushbutton technology and instant print-outs that leave little room for individual imagination.

Dr Osley says: "There are some indications of renewed interest, but I think that they are not obviously explicable."

"It could be the result of a return to more formal methods of teaching and a greater importance placed upon reading and writing and the ability to be able to count up to ten."

But the apparent revival has been sufficient to arouse the pen company Osmiroid into sponsoring the society's scheme to expand the number of local workshops it organizes around the country. The aim is to triple the number of Osmiroid approved lecturers from the present figure of 12.

Sir Patrick Naime, the society's chairman, says the aims of the society would be more vigorously fostered in a way that would widen the recognition of the value of the italic hand. And the society has been assured by Osmiroid that the commercial aspects of the scheme would be "strictly subordinate".

Anything that furthers the art will be welcomed by Dr Osley, who has in the past railed against what he believes is ill-disciplined teaching in schools. In his obituary of Alfred Fairbank, he attacked "lunatic fads" in schools including "creative writing" in which handwriting was picked up as a by-product.

He wrote: "In the last few years, when the throw-away ball-point was already becoming obsolescent and an affront to conservation, we have seen signs of reaction against pedagogic anarchy, so that there is some prospect that interest in handwriting in schools may revive. When that happens, Fairbank will come into his own again."

### Edward Townsend

● The Society of Scribes and Illuminators, The Secretary, c/o The British Crafts Centre, 43, Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LD. The Society for Italic Handwriting, c/o Pierpoint, Secretary, 4 Knifton Court, Minnis Hall Road, Potters Bar, EN6 3DA.

Shaffers have arranged a demonstration of Calligraphy by Fiona Greenwood on November 20 and 21 from 11-3 at W. H. Smith, Holborn Circus.

## The graphologist may have your job in his hands

Graphology, the technique of assessing character by handwriting, is one of those pursuits, half science and half art, that people are inclined to take seriously despite their better judgment.

It is a bit like astrology that way: there are degrees of obsession and of belief or disbelief on a wide scale; but even the most sceptical are likely to find themselves paying attention when the subject comes up. Just as everyone, like it or not, has a star sign, so near-universal literacy means that we all use handwriting and find it impossible to deny altogether the proposition that our handwriting might reveal some hitherto undiscovered aspect of our inner selves.

For some, graphology is a hobby; but, again on the analogy of the astrologer, there are those who have studied the subject in great depth and manage to practise it for a living. There is even an Institute of Graphology whose graduates are thought by some captains of industry at least to be much better equipped for scrutinising job applications and the like.

As there are fashionable astrologers there are fashionable handwriting experts: one stylish young lady was described in a recent newspaper interview as "graphologist to the stars".

The use of graphology in industry is spreading, particularly for top managerial positions. A minimum of 20 lines of handwriting on plain paper is required, and the evidence with a magnifying glass. Not all candidates are warned that their handwriting will be so used, and even personnel managers who are satisfied with graphology admit that the results should be treated with caution.

One management consultant who uses graphology says that if his analysis shows anything as serious as criminal tendencies or sexual problems he will telephone his opinion to the company concerned rather than put anything in writing.

Many of the more obvious principles of graphology seem to stem from a kind of intuitive common sense approach or an eye for analogy. It is somehow persuasive that

slanting to the left will indicate an introverted attitude to life while the more outgoing will slant to the right; or that upright writing might signify confidence and optimism while the reverse might warn of a writer who was low in self-esteem.

Often the use of graphology verges on the para-medical, with certain kinds of blurring and broken letters thought to indicate paranoia and a variety of physical conditions affecting virtually all the major organs and systems of the body.

The *Sunday Times* reported not long ago on an extraordinarily high incidence of twins at a school near Belfast. With 10 pairs of twins to cope with, six of them identical, teachers routinely compared handwriting to determine which twin was which.

Techniques developed at the University of Birmingham suggest the Irish people can be identified by their handwriting. Tom Davis, a lecturer in the English department, tested techniques worked out by one of his students, Anne Lawson, with good results. Two of seven samples of

handwriting were correctly identified as the only Irish ones: one who was suspected of Irishness was not, however, and, worst of all, the handwriting of *The Times* correspondent who set the test was judged "peculiar".

The "Irishness" of handwriting is thought to descend from the Gaelic and from the "uncial" and "half-uncial" rounded letter forms used in early Latin and Greek manuscripts. Mr Davis's interest in graphology also extends to the identification or authentication of famous authors: among his triumphs are two letters from D. H. Lawrence.

Some of the expressions used by graphologists are both evocative and amusing: there are "felon's claws", "cat's paws" and even an "embezzler's oval". *The Times* Diary went through a phase of analysing signatures: Mrs Thatcher "would make a good orchestra conductor" and Michael Foot did "everything according to preconceived plans".

In the 1950s, teachers decided to abolish instruction in handwriting as such at most schools; many are now

convinced that was a mistake. The most intelligent pupils can find themselves crippled by poor handwriting, or by finding handwriting more difficult than it has to be because there has been no instruction in fundamentals of posture, lighting or even how to grip a pencil or pen.

"Some children are miserably aware that their handwriting betrays their sense of failure not only to teachers but future employers", *The Times* noted recently.

Significantly, the University of Reading has scheduled a conference on the teaching of handwriting this month. Top of the agenda is "a handwriting policy for school - its implications for the primary school". Another speaker will challenge the conference with the proposition that "from today handwriting is dead".

Handwriting experts have long been in demand in courts of law, although their testimony has by no means gone unquestioned, nor survived all challenges. The controversy is at least 60 years old, as the ruminations of a *Legal Correspondent* in *The Times* in February 1972 make clear.

"There is no kind of expert evidence which is more vital in some trials than that of handwriting," he wrote, "and there is no kind of expert evidence which is more likely to arouse anxieties in the minds of a jury..."

"In practice it is, of course, the practice of counsel to pour contempt upon it, and, unfortunately, there are ample precedents of the failure and mistakes of handwriting experts to justify an advocate's criticisms."

Several cautionary tales followed, with a final recommendation that an abortive French attempt to form an association of handwriting experts be revived on the grounds that "it is not in the interests of justice that the evidence of those who are really skilled in handwriting should be discredited by their inability to produce proof of training and experience".

Tony Samstag

## Word processors have set us free says the scribe

Calligraphy is a tactile pleasure. People who are committed to this graphic pleasure talk with loving voices as though describing a caress. The touch of pen, quill, or brush on paper, vellum or parchment is just that. The enthusiasm in eyes and voices is inspiring and one can well understand why, once seduced, calligraphy becomes a passionate interest.

Donald Jackson is a person at whose feet others sit on both sides of the Atlantic. The Australians too have caught the infection and one woman, when last he was in Perth, telephoned to say it wasn't far from Tokyo so she would come to a workshop. She did.

He is a man without pretensions but his own dedication, talent and enthusiasm hit the visual consciousness at just the right moment in the 1970s when we were reacting against machine-made marvels.

With a scholarship to art college at 13 he graduated from the Bolton School of Art and went on to postgraduate work at the Central and Goldsmiths' Colleges in London. Since 1964 he has been Scribe to Her Majesty's Crown Office at the House of Lords.

There are still scrolls for city charters, for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, for letters patent for peerages under the Great Seal to be prepared.

After the usual hungry students' patch he has been teaching calligraphy at Camberwell School of Art, but in 1973 he borrowed the money for an excursion fare to the US and set off with a bundle of work under his arm to try his luck. The success was astonishing for he not only sold everything but discovered that the Americans were some decades behind what we were achieving in calligraphy here. People now come to his American workshops at the California State University among other venues.

"The Americans very naively means they have a new approach. Most stimulating. No class consciousness, for they don't relate calligraphy with work by monks for medieval princes of state or church. Nor even of dear old ladies in

provincial British cottages doing rhyme sheets. Without history to keep them earthbound they have caught up to our best standards in ten years."

Photographs of a workshop shows 200 people sitting at easels in a huge gym. His followers have forsaken jobs as debt collectors, bouncers and

even a PhD in Gothic architecture. "It's specially liberating to women. A sense of personal achievement, a freedom of expression..."

He uses quills, some Victorian, and sometimes reed pens. "They last for ever because so little of them wears out on any surface", he says. No need to catch a swan or goose but perhaps an idea to make friends with the Warden at Slimbridge Wildlife Trust? He also mixes his own inks and has some centuries old Chinese ink blocks still in their original wrapping.

"Word processors have set us free. Commercial information can be given to machines and we can enjoy the act of writing again. It's some 150 years ago that western man learned to



Wishing you a happy Christmas: Lily Lee says it with letters

write en masse and lost writing as an art. Calligraphy is an art, in rather a different way although one would have supposed that her Chinese ancestry made this art a natural. To go back some generations her great grandfather went to Canada to help build the Canadian Pacific Railway. He sent money home and eventually his son (Lily's grandfather) joined him.

Her parents really did have a Chinese Laundry in California and hoped their daughter would do something honourably safe like becoming a nurse. It took a lot of courage for this American-born daughter to decide not to follow their wishes.

She travelled - Europe, Australia, (where she lived for three years) Hongkong, Nepal, Afghanistan where she literally earned her bread by calligraphy. But she had no formal art

training and felt, with her ancestral origins, something was sadly missing. Speaking Cantonese but unable to write it she turned to western calligraphy and took a course in calligraphy and book binding at the Digby Stuart College at Roehampton and has recently become a member of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators.

Things - meaning daily bread - don't come easily to the freelance artist. Acts of faith are what carry them through and she has just made the courageous jump into her own studio at Unit 357 Clerkenwell Workshops, 31 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 (01-608 0114). Her commissions are less impressive than Donald Jackson's but his help, encouragement and inspiration and her own talents will see her through.

She works with steel pens and brushes. Designs can be for stunning Christmas cards (silk screened), poems, graphics for shops and general commercial work like letter headings.

She too feels that the materials should suit the job, but unlike Donald Jackson, who has to turn work down, she has her reputation to make in menus, book jackets, record sleeves.

Diana Pollock

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## The way to a perfect style

If, like me, you are described as a writer in *The Times* telephone directory, it must be true. Even so, it struck me the other day how little I write, apart from short bursts of "4 p.m. plus" or "Bread batteries miaoumix-munchies".

Indeed, people have begged me to type rather than write my communications to them. A lifetime of taking shorthand has proved as lethal as the writing of prescriptions to the hand I was rather carelessly taught in my youth. What should I do?

Inspiration comes with a selection of books on the art and craft of writing. *The Craft of Calligraphy*, by Dorothy Mahoney (Pelham Books, £7.95) is written by a pupil of the great founder of modern calligraphy, Edward Johnston. He gives a loving account of the master who gave up studying to be a doctor at the age of 26, and encouraged by the architect W R Lethaby, a friend of William Morris, studied art and in particular the art of lettering.

In 1899 Johnston was appointed to teach lettering at the Central School, London and Dorothy Mahoney studied with him at the design school of the Royal College of Art in the 1920s.

She herself was appointed tutor to the lettering class, when Johnston's health declined, from 1939 to 1953, when, as she says, "Robin Darwin, then Principal, introduced typography and closed the calligraphy class." Sadly, many other schools of art followed Darwin's example.

Dorothy Mahoney's book gives all the practical details of tools, materials, nibs, pens (the section on how to make a quill pen makes it look quite easy, which one's mind says is not so).

In addition there is the most inspirational collection of calligraphy, from Johnston himself from a demonstration on a blackboard using plain chalk, examples of the special type designed for the exclusive use of London Transport to illustrations, frontispieces, and a collection of letters sent to Dorothy Mahoney by her friends, all of whom (it seems) write beautifully, individual hands full of character.

*Painting for Calligraphers*, by Maria Angel (Pelham Books, £15) is a companion volume to Dorothy Mahoney's book, and the two authors are friends and collaborators. Maria Angel is a miniaturist and scribe, and her book is aimed at the artist who wishes to paint in miniature, possibly in association with a calligrapher.

Illustrations range from the earliest known work of printed music in red and black, the "Constance" Gradual in the British Library, dated about 1473, to her own exquisite paintings, many of animals and flowers. Initial letters such as the C for Chameleon, the beast neatly curled within the half circle of the letter, are a delight. The use of gelatine, gold

powder, egg yolk, with distilled water, or beaten egg white remind one of the ingredients of a benign spell by a white witch.

Certainly the paintings are magical, but there are practical details on where to get the materials in a handy list at the back of the book.

Judy Martin's *The Complete Guide to Calligraphy* (Phaidon, £9.95) is another beautifully produced, and printed, book, pointing out that while in oriental cultures calligraphy is one of the purest, and most highly esteemed art forms, based on centuries of tradition, we in the West are now taught to use computers.

There are some splendid illustrations in colour, many taken from the eastern tradition, from the Koran, where the depiction of the human body was forbidden, resulting in a wonderful flowering of the calligrapher's art, to the Japanese brush drawn characters in which the divide between art and writing cannot be seen.

Joan Freeman's *Lettering and Calligraphy* (Batsford, £7.95) is a very good, teaching guide, from the simple act of fixing the paper to a board to the choice of pen, how to fill the nib with ink (a lost art for the Biro generation) and then on to practice, practice, practice. There are useful tips on how to remove mistakes. Nothing you can do if you have no "eye" for it, as they all remark. However, you can train your eye with practice and patience, or so Joan Freeman tells us, giving illustrations of good and bad spacing.

*Learning Calligraphy: a book of lettering, design and history*, by Margaret Shepherd, (Thorsons Publishers, Wellingborough, £5.95) is a paperback, written entirely in a beautiful, simple script, in black and white throughout, working its way through Roman, Celtic, Gothic, Bookhand, Italic, numerals, each with a guide page, opposite in which to practice.

There is some splendid fun in adding "swashes" to italic capitals - but there is one golden rule - if you are using two or three letter styles (not more than three) the historically oldest script comes first on the page, ie Roman precedes Italic.

She has even kindly included a page for the left handed, saying that "traditionally calligraphy will be challenging, but not impossible".

Even if you are not left handed, it might be the motto one wrote out first, and put above the desk. There are some wonderful examples of Edward Johnston quoted by Dorothy Mahoney, pronouncements, each of which should be tried out by the apprentice:

● "You cannot give a specimen of your writing any more than you can give a specimen of your smile".

● "When in doubt, use Roman capitals".

● "Writing between ruled lines is like trying to dance in a room your own height".

● "A flourish is no good unless it flourishes, as cracking a whip is no good unless it cracks".

● "Exaggerate, or be normal". We can but try.

Philipa Toomey

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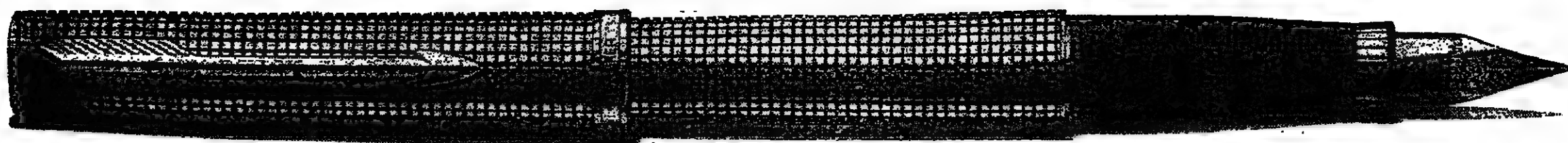
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# Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.
- 6.30 **Breakfast** Time with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional, news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; horoscopes at 8.35.
- 9.00 **Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga**. Lesson tour: the Coil (r).
- 9.10 **Mastermind**, presented by Magnus Magnusson from Worcester College of Higher Education. Christopher Carter's specialist subject is British birds: Nick Munnell answers questions on the life and works of Noel Coward; Malcolin Parnell on the voyages of Captain Cook; and Anne Barber on the novels of Barbara Pym (r). 9.40 **Cee-fax** 10.30 **Play School**, presented by Stuart Bradley and Jane Hardy (r) 10.50 **Cee-fax**.
- 12.30 **News Afternoon** with Moira Stuart and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian Macaskill 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One** includes Peter Seabrook's gardening advice; fashion from Jeff Banks; music from Modern Romance and the Amadeus String Quartet 1.45 **Little Misses and the Master Man**. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).
- 2.00 **Racing from Ascot**. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of three races - the Fairweather City Handicap, the Park Novices' Stakes (2.40) and the Charles Davis Handicap Steeplechase (3.10).
- 3.25 **A Moment to Talk**. Telecommunications workers at GEC in Coventry talk about their lives (r) 3.40 **Cartoon**: Tom and Jerry in Town and Outing 3.48 Regional news (not London).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Liz Watts 4.10 **The Family-News** 4.15 **Jackanory**. Peter Davison reads from five of the Sheep-Head 4.25 **Cartoon**: The McGragg, Cartoon (r).
- 4.30 **Benji, Zax and the Alien Prince**. Part seven and the Prince's bracelet is stolen and he collapses 4.50 **Harvest**. The different looks in making pictures.
- 5.15 **Crackjack** presented by Stu Francis. Among the guests are the Great Sproddo, Shakti and Hazel Dean 5.58 **Weather** News with Nicholas Witnell and Jeremy Paxman.
- 6.30 **London Plus**.
- 6.55 **Cartoon**.
- 7.05 **Blaise Plank**. Les Dawson's panel this week is Sandra Dickinson, Su Francis, Cherry Gillespie, Paul Shane, Frank Thornton and Lizzie Webb 7.40 **What a Carry On**. Excerpts from the Carry On series of comedy films.
- 8.05 **Bergerac**. The detective is detailed to follow the wife of a criminal who has been on the run for ten years (r) (Cee-fax).
- 9.00 **News with Julia Somerville**.
- 9.25 **Film: Hard Contract** (1989) starring James Coburn, Les Remick and Burgess Meredith. John Cunningham is a hit man who limits his romantic life to sessions with call girls. When in Spain on a triple killing assignment he meets sociologist Sheila who falls for him without knowing what line of business he is in. Directed by S Lee Pogostin.
- 11.00 **News headlines**.
- 11.10 **Anteprima**, a profile of Germany's Prince Johannes von Thurn und Taxis (r).
- 12.00 **Weather**.

## TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; angling news at 6.42; the new Miss World from 6.45; exercise at 6.46 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 6.51; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; pop video at 7.54; Jenni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; Jan Walsh's consumer news at 8.47; insurance advice on home burglaries at 9.08.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines** 9.30 **For Schools: The 1982 Festival of India** 9.47 **How we smoke** 10.02 **The harm smoking does to the lungs** and heart 10.28 **Individual freedom and the good of society** 10.48 **Physics: the determination of Boltzmann's Constant** 11.02 **Moving home** 11.22 **Part two of The Shadow Game** 11.39 **A contemporary account of the 1936 Olympic Games** 12.00 **Adventures of a feral duck**. With the voice of Tim Brooke-Taylor (r) 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets 12.30 **Never Too Early**. Never Too Late. Part two of the series covering all standards of education (Oracle).
- 1.00 **News at One** 1.20 **Thames News** 1.30 **The Murder, the Sex** (1981) starring Margaret Rutherford as the redoubtable Miss Marple who, on the train returning home from London, is shocked to see a man strangle a woman. Directed by George Pollock.
- 3.00 **Take the High Road**. Drama on the Scottish highland estate of Glendaroch 3.25 **News headlines** 3.30 **Sons and Daughters** 4.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10 4.20 **It's a Dub Dub**. A musical version of the nursery rhyme. Pussycat, Pussycat 4.25 **The Wind in the Willows** 4.50 **Musicals**. Fergus Roy continues his history of magic with the help of Paul Matthews who plays a wizard performing one of his most daring feats. 5.15 **Blockbusters** 5.45 **News 6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show** 7.00 **Alwilt**. Robert Winchester, the inventor of the advanced television copier, Alwilt, is being double crossed by a beautiful laboratory assistant who is working for the Russians.
- 8.00 **Carde Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right**. Couples test their knowledge of public opinion and their luck at the turn of a card.
- 8.30 **Hallelujah** starring Thora Hird as the keen but ineffective search for souls for the Salvation Army (Crack).
- 8.50 **El Brion**. It's a Whopper. Part two of the comedy series about a Midlands course angling club and it is time for the first contest of the season (Oracle).
- 10.00 **News at Ten** followed by London news headlines.
- 10.30 **The Long Programme**, presented by John Taylor. An investigation into the increase of squatting in the London area.
- 11.00 **Struggle**. Comedy series set in a Labour controlled London Town Hall where, tonight, the council leader has the knotty problem of whether or not to allow himself to be allocated a full-out shelter in times of emergency.
- 11.30 **London Tonight**. Chat show hosted by Janet Street-Porter and Auberon Waugh.
- 12.15 **Live from London**, the Clixas Blues Band.
- 1.15 **Highway Patrol** Vintage American crime series starring Broderick Crawford (r).
- 1.45 **Think Thoughts**.



Ferruccio Berolci: Venetian Dance Master (BBC 2, 8.30pm)

## BBC 2

- 8.00 **Cee-fax**: Daytime on Two Newton's Laws of Motion and the Space Shuttle. 9.52 **Part eight of Badger Girl**. 10.15 **Maths**: decimals. 10.38 **Science**: keeping warm. 11.00 **History**: the development of towns from the Middle Ages. 11.22 **Why the textile industry came to Blackburn**. 11.44 **Job sharing**. 12.03 **An introduction to the use of small computers**. Robots and microcomputers. 12.55 **An analysis of Britain's performance as an economic power since the Industrial Revolution**. 1.20 **Part one of a three-part drama about a Scottish family at the turn of the century**. 2.00 **The dangers of solvent abuse**. 2.30 **Part two of Shaw's Androcles and the Lion**, starring Billy Connolly.
- 3.00 **Shades of Autumn**. Sunday Times gardening correspondent, Graham Rose and Roy Lancaster explore the delights of the gardens of Hildesheim (r) (Cee-fax).
- 3.25 **Racing from Ascot**: the Lion Gate Handicap Hurdle (3.40).
- 3.55 **Film: The Captive** (1949) starring Lew Ayres and Teresa Wright. Drama, set in Mexico, about the manager of an oil refinery who is wrecked with guilt after killing a man he believed stole money from the company. Directed by John Sturges.
- 5.25 **News summary** with subtitles.
- 5.30 **The Four Great Seasons**. David Barclay in the dates of the year in the diary of the autumn (r).
- 6.00 **The Invaders**. Science fiction serial.
- 6.50 **Choir of the Year 1984**. A new series begins with the first of the quartet. Robert Tear introduces six choirs from the south of England.
- 7.30 **Three in the Shed**. Continuing the story of the Red Fox, the only survivor of a family of foxes living on the Somerset Levels.
- 8.00 **Call My Bluff**. Frank Muir, Lynsey de Paul and Huw Weldon try to pull the woolly wool over the eyes of Arthur Marshall, Sheila Steafel and Ian McKellen.
- 8.30 **Italo**. A portrait of Ferruccio Berolci, a Venetian dancing master (see Choice).
- 9.00 **M\*A\*S\*H** An old First World War comedy of Col. Potter's now deskbound, arrives unexpectedly at the 407th.
- 9.25 **Arena**. A film portrait of Francis Bacon (see Choice).
- 10.30 **Newsnight** includes an interview with the man accused of forcing the Hitler salute.
- 11.15 **Film: The Defiant Ones** (1958) starring Tony Curtis and Richard Widmark as two prisoners on the run, chained together. Curtis plays John Jackson, a racist white. Widmark plays Paul Snider, a black fugitive. Directed by Stanley Kramer. Ends at 12.55.

## CHOICE

chance and accident influence the evolution of a painting. But Mr Sylvester is not in a challenging mood when it comes to those aspects of Mr Bacon's work that cannot be alone in finding ugly and perversely: paintings, for example, in which viscera seem to adorn the body instead of being enclosed by it. Life in the raw is an extremely brutal thing, says Mr Bacon. The accumulation of detail, literally just, because it finds its way from the cluttered studio and on to his canvases. It must be acknowledged that Mr Sylvester draws from the painter some fascinating thoughts about art's function in bringing order to the chaos of life, and about the processes by which the elements of

## Radio 2

On medium wave, 1 denotes also VHF stereo. News on the hour (except 5.00pm). Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. 4.00 **Coin Barry**: 5.30 **Hay** 6.30 **Tony Wright** including 1.00 Sports Desk. 2.00 **Gloria Hunniford** including 2.02, 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.50 **Musical** on the Way 4.00 **David Hamilton** including 4.02, 5.02 Sports Desk. 6.00 **John Dunn** including 5.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 **Sport and Classified Results** (M-F only). 8.00 **Friday Night** is Music Night from Hippodrome. **Golders** from Ann James, Geoffrey Chard and the Charles Young. 9.00 **World News** 9.15 **Sports** 9.30 **News** 9.45 **Sport** 10.00 **News** 10.15 **Sport** 10.30 **News** 10.45 **Sport** 11.00 **News** 11.15 **Sport** 11.30 **News** 11.45 **Sport** 12.00 **News** 12.15 **Sport** 12.30 **News** 12.45 **Sport** 1.00 **News** 1.15 **Sport** 1.30 **News** 1.45 **Sport** 2.00 **News** 2.15 **Sport** 2.30 **News** 2.45 **Sport** 3.00 **News** 3.15 **Sport** 3.30 **News** 3.45 **Sport** 4.00 **News** 4.15 **Sport** 4.30 **News** 4.45 **Sport** 5.00 **News** 5.15 **Sport** 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